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THE INVISIBLE MAN
ALL NEW MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS
THE INVISIBLE MAN
ADAPTED FROM THE CLASSIC NOVEL BY H.G.WELLS
A TIMELESS TALE OF
STARTLING SUSPENSE
IN THE MACABRE MARVEL MANNER!

STAN LEE presents

THE INVISIBLE MAN

by H. G. WELLS

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Herbert George Wells (H. G. Wells) was born in September of 1866 at Bromley, Kent, England. At an early age, he developed an interest in the natural sciences, particularly biology. He married early after becoming a pupil-teacher at age 17, but that marriage did not last. He left his past behind him, immediately becoming a successful journalist and short story writer and, eventually remarried (as it turned out, one of his previous biology students).

Much of H. G. Wells explorations into fiction, primarily his early novels, dealt with science fiction and veiled attempts at prophecy. Wells' scientific background added greatly to his success in this genre, as did his acute natural perception in the field of sociology, showing the depth of human response in what might otherwise be considered outrageous fantasy. His first such novel was THE TIME MACHINE (see Marvel Classic Comics #2). WAR OF THE WORLDS was third, following THE INVISIBLE MAN.

Because of his attempts at prophecy, Wells became a key member of the Fabian Society of London, where he would meet George Bernard Shaw. Shaw and Wells were often at odds and much of that period's experiences are recorded in Wells' novels ANN VERONICA and THE NEW MACHIAVELLI.

Wells also wrote a comprehensive OUTLINE OF HISTORY and some lesser known non-fiction works before he died in 1946.

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THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER CAME TO THE ENGLISH VILLAGE OF IPING ON THE NINTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, THROUGH BITING WIND AND DRIVING SNOW.
COACH & HORSES Inn
HE WAS BUNDLED FROM HEAD TO FOOT, CARRIED A LITTLE BLACK VALISE IN ONE THICKLY GLOVED HAND... AND THE BRIM OF HIS SOFT FELT HAT CAST EVERY INCH OF HIS FACE INTO SHADOW.
THE INVISIBLE MAN

THE WALK FROM THE STATION HAD BEEN LONG AND HARSH...
IT SHOULD BE QUIET HERE IN THE WINTER MONTHS-- SAFE FROM PRYING EYES.
FINALLY, MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE, THE STRANGER STAGGERED INTO THE INN...
WELL, HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT THE STORM'S BLOWN IN.
P'RHAPS WE WOULD HAVE A LOOK-- IF THERE WAS ANYTHIN' OF 'IM TO SEE. HE'S ALL MUFFLED UP.
I MUST HAVE LODGINGS-- A ROOM AND A FIRE.
YOU'D BE WANTIN' MRS. HALL, THEN-- SHE'S PROPRIETRESS OF THE INN.
MAY I HELP YOU, SIR?
I WISH TO RENT A ROOM, MRS. HALL, IF YOU HAVE ANY AVAILABLE.
OF... COURSE, SIR. WE DON'T GET MANY LODGERS THIS EARLY IN THE YEAR... SO WE'VE MANY AVAILABLE ROOMS.
IF YOU WOULD FOLLOW ME..?
I, AH... DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN YOU AROUND IPING BEFORE, SIR..?
I'VE COME HERE TO BE ALONE, MRS. HALL-- TO PERFORM MY WORK IN SECLUSION AND SOLITUDE.

HERE WE ARE, SIR. I SHALL JUST... AH, START A FIRE FOR YOU, TO DRIVE THE CHILL FROM YOUR BONES.
THERE WE ARE, SIR -- THE ROOM WILL SOON BE WARMER.
MAY I TAKE YOUR COAT AND HAT, AND GIVE THEM A GOOD DRY DOWNSTAIRS IN THE KITCHEN?
NO!!
AH... THAT IS... NO... THANK YOU, MRS. HALL.
Y-VERY WELL, SIR... I SHALL FETCH SOME DINNER FOR YOU, THEN.
WELL, HE'S CERTAINLY A QUEER ONE--AND MORE THAN A TRIFLE RUDE. I SHALL LET MY GOOD HUSBAND KNOW ABOUT THIS.
AND WHEN MRS. HALL RETURNED, THE STRANGER WAS STILL STANDING WHERE SHE HAD LEFT HIM...
YOUR DINNER, SIR.
YES, YES -- JUST LEAVE IT ON THE TABLE, MRS. HALL. I'M CERTAIN I SHALL BE ABLE TO FIND IT.
WELL. RUDE ISN'T THE WORD FOR IT.

MRS. HALL HAD BEEN SO PRE-OCCUPIED BY HER NEW LODGER'S MYSTERIOUS ATTITUDE THAT SHE FOUND HERSELF DOWN THE STAIRS BEFORE IT OCCURRED TO HER...
AGH! I FORGOT TO PUT THE MUSTARD ON HIS TRAY.
HE DOESN'T REALLY DESERVE THE EFFORT...
... BUT I SUPPOSE I'D BEST TAKE IT UP TO HIM. NO SENSE IN BEING JUST AS RUDE AS HE IS.
FORGIVE ME, SIR, BUT I FORGOT TO SET OUT THE --
OH! YOUR FACE -- ALL BANDAGED!
AND WHAT OF IT, MRS. HALL?
FORGIVE ME, SIR -- AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE SIMPLY BEING RUDE. I... I DIDN'T KNOW, SIR...
YOU... YOU'VE HAD AN ACCIDENT--?
IF YOU MUST KNOW -- YES. AND IN THE FUTURE, MRS. HALL, YOU MIGHT BE SO CONSIDERATE AS TO KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING!
I'M SORRY, MRS. HALL. IT SEEMS YOU MUST FORGIVE ME AS WELL. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SNAP AT YOU, BUT I'M... RATHER TIRED.

YOU SEE, I MUST HAVE SOLITUDE. I CAME HERE TO PINE TO LIVE AND WORK WITHOUT INTERRUPTION-- WITHOUT BEING DISTURBED. MY WORK IS OF A VERY DELICATE AND PRECISE NATURE.
I AM AN EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATOR--A RESEARCHER INTO THE HIDDEN MYSTERIES OF CHEMISTRY. THAT IS HOW I... HOW MY ACCIDENT WAS CAUSED.
OH, YES, SIR, BUT IF I MAY BE SO BOLD AS TO ASK--
YOU MAY NOT, MRS. HALL! YOU MAY ASK NOTHING! THAT WILL BE QUITE ENOUGH.
VERY WELL, SIR, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU--
ONE MOMENT, MRS. HALL... I...AGAIN I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR MY ABRUPT MANNER...
YOU SEE, I FIND MYSELF RATHER SENSITIVE ABOUT MY PRESENT APPEARANCE. I'M CERTAIN YOU CAN APPRECIATE THAT, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES--
-- AND UNDERSTAND WHY I'VE COME HERE, TO SUCH A REMOTE VILLAGE... FOR PRIVACY.
AND NOW, MRS. HALL, I WONDER IF YOU COULD HAVE AN ERRAND RUN FOR ME. MY... AH, LUGGAGE IS AT THE STATION. IF IT COULD BE BROUGHT HERE...?
CERTAINLY, SIR, THAT CAN BE ARRANGED...
...BUT NO ONE WILL FETCH IT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS. YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW.
TOMORROW?! YOU'RE CERTAIN--?
WHY, Y- YES, SIR.

DON'T WORRY, SIR-- THE STORM WILL BE SPENT BY THEN.
GOOD EVENING TO YOU.
TOMORROW...?
BLAC
SKRASH
SKRASH!
OH, GOOD LORD. HE'S IN A MOOD... AND MY GOOD SERVING SET, TOO.
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT, MRS. HALL?
I... I DON'T REALLY KNOW. HIS FACE IS ALL BANDAGED.
BANDAGED?
SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THAT CHAP, MARK MY WORDS.
AYE, WHY DID HE COME HERE? HEAVY WRAPS AND BANDAGES LIKE THAT WOULD MAKE A GOOD DISGUISE FOR SOME FOUL CRIMINAL...
NO--HE'S HAD AN ACCIDENT WITH HIS CHEMISTRY--SO IT IS NOTHING LIKE THAT.
BUT I... I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS...

BY MORNING, TRUE TO MRS. HALL'S PREDICTION... THE FIERCE STORM HAD FINALLY ABATED, LEAVING A BRIGHT-CLEAR SKY FROM WHICH THE SUN BEAT DOWN TO SPARKLE ON THE FRESH SNOW.
A CART TRUNDLED DOWN THE STREET, COMING TO A HALT BEFORE THE COACH & HORSES INN...
AS MRS. HALL WAS BUSY IN THE BREAKFAST KITCHEN, HER HUSBAND DECIDED TO HANDLE THE AFFAIR...
BAGGAGE, EH? ENOUGH CRATES OUT THERE TO CLOTHE A RUDDY ARMY.
HE HAD NOT YET SEEN HIS NEW LODGER, AND WAS UNDERSTANDABLY CURIOUS ABOUT ALL THE FUSS...
TOK TOK TOK
HMP. DOESN'T SEEM TO HEAR THE KNOCK... BUT I CAN'T VERY WELL LEAVE THE MEN OUT THERE IN THE SNOW.
SIR--? WAKE UP, SIR. YOUR BA--
LORD! HIS EYES-- EMPTY?! HE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE NO EYES--BUT NO ONE SAID HE WAS BLIND.
MMM? WH...?
ANOTHER INTRUSION! WHAT IS IT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE-- SPYING ON ME IN MY SLEEP?!
AH, BEGGIN' YER YER PARDON, SIR...
... BUT I'M MR. HALL-- I BELIEVE YOU MET MY WIFE LAST NIGHT...

IS IT MY BAGGAGE? IS IT HERE--?
ER... YES, SIR, THAT IT IS-- RIGHT OUTSIDE.

QUITE A LOAD OF IT, TOO...
... UH, SIR.

THE STRANGER WASTED LITTLE TIME AND NO AMENITIES IN TAKING CHARGE OF HIS GOODS...
COME ALONG WITH THOSE CRATES, AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT! I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH ON LAGGARDS LIKE YOU!

A STRAY DOG CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE STRANGER, AND...
GRRR!

... LUNGING FORWARD FOR NO APPARENT REASON, SAVAGELY CLAMPED HIS TEETH AROUND THE MAN'S ANKLE.
WHAT--? GET AWAY FROM ME, FILTHY MONGREL!

KICKING THE DOG LOOSE, THE STRANGER DASHED BACK INTO THE INN...
... BUT NOT BEFORE A GAPING HOLE HAD BEEN TORN IN THE CUFF OF HIS TROUSERS.

DID YOU SEE THAT? I LOOKED THROUGH THE TEAR IN HIS TROUSERS-- AND I SWEAR I DIDN'T SEE A THING, NO BLOOD-- NOTHING!
AAAH, GO ON WITH YE-- THE SUN ON THE SNOW HAS DAZZLED YER EYES. NOW COME ON WITH THESE BLOODY CRATES-- THE ICE IS COMIN' THROUGH THE HOLE IN ME BOOT.

LORD THESE BODY BOXES IS HEAVY.
SET THEM DOWN CAREFULLY, YOU LOUTS! YOU'RE HANDLING VALUABLE EQUIPMENT!
NOW GET OUT!!
CHEERFUL SORT, AIN'T HE?
AT LAST-- AT LAST!
SLAM!
KLITCH!
AT LAST-- MY JOURNALS -- MY EQUIPMENT-- AT LAST I CAN BEGIN AGAIN.
WHEN MRS. HALL BROUGHT HIS DINNER THAT NIGHT, THE STRANGER WAS ALREADY DEEPLY IMMERSED IN HIS EXPERIMENTS...
GOODNESS, HIS EYES ARE EXTREMELY DEEP-SET-- EVEN MORE THAN MY HUSBAND SAID.
WHAT? MRS. HALL--!
I REALLY WISH YOU WOULD NOT INVADE THIS ROOM WITHOUT KNOCKING!
I--I DID, SIR-- BUT SEEMINGLY YOU WERE PREOCCUPIED. I HAD TO LET MYSELF IN WITH MY LATCH-KEY.

PERHAPS I HAVE NOT MADE MYSELF SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR, MRS. HALL. MY EXPERIMENTS ARE EXTREMELY VITAL AND URGENT. THE SLIGHTEST DISTURBANCE UPSETS ME GREATLY.
Y-YES SIR... I CAN SEE THAT, SIR...
THEN GET OUT OF HERE AND LEAVE ME ALONE!
THE PROPRIETRESS LEFT...
BUT LATER THAT NIGHT, MRS. HALL FOUND SHE COULD NOT STAY AWAY FROM THE NEW LODGER AND THE MYSTERY HE HAD BROUGHT TO HER INN.
BUT THOUGH SHE COULD NOT SUPPRESS HER AROUSED CURIOSITY, SHE HAD LEARNED TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATION...
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS-- NOT LIKE THIS!
SHE HEARD HIM PACING UP AND DOWN HIS ROOM, AS IF IN GREAT AGITATION-- MUTTERING TO HIMSELF, ALMOST RA[illegible]...
IT'S TOO SLOW-- IT MAY TAKE ME ALL MY LIFE! I CAN'T REMAIN LIKE THIS FOREVER--!
NOT FOREVER!!
MRS. HALL HAD HEARD ENOUGH FOR THE NIGHT. HER DREAMS WOULD RESUME THE MYSTERY WHERE HER FRIGHT HAD CUT IT OFF.

THE STRANGER CONTINUED HIS EXPERIMENTS WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT INTERRUPTION--UNTIL, ONE DAY NEAR THE END OF WINTER...
OH, WHAT NOW?
TOK TOK TOK
PARDON MY INTRUSION, SIR, BUT I HAVE HEARD YOU ARE PERFORMING RESEARCH EXPERIMENTS...
YES? WHAT OF IT?
IS THE RESEARCH MEDICAL IN NATURE, BY ANY CHANCE?
BLAST YOU! WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU FISHING FOR?!
IF THE ONLY REASON YOU'VE COME HERE IS TO WASTE MY T--
THE STRANGER PULLED HIS HAND FROM HIS POCKET AS IF TO SHAKE AN ANGRY FIST, AND THEN STIFFENED, SPEECHLESS...
...REALIZING ONLY WHAT HIS ANGER HAD CAUSED.
LORD, HE'S GOT NO ARM--MUST HAVE LOST IT IN AN ACCIDENT...
BY JOVE--! NOW HOW THE DEVIL CAN YOU MOVE AN EMPTY SLEEVE LIKE THAT--??
YOU SAW AN EMPTY SLEEVE?
YES--OF COURSE I DID.

YOU'RE CERTAIN?
YES, I... I..
GOOD LORD.
SLOWLY WITH A HINT OF EERIE MENACE, THE STRANGER EXTENDED HIS SLEEVE TOWARD THE ASTONISHED DOCTOR.

WHEN IT WAS BUT SIX INCHES FROM THE DOCTOR'S FACE, IT STOPPED.
WHY, THERE IS NOTHING IN THERE -- ABSOLUTELY NOTHING AT ALL!
HOW ON EARTH DO YOU HOLD IT SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR LIKE THAT?

THEN, SOMETHING NIPPED THE DOCTOR...
OWTCH! MY NOSE--!
HAHAH!

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO A NOSE THAT DOES NOT REMAIN WHERE IT BELONGS -- MINDING ITS OWN BUSINESS! HAHAH!

THE DOCTOR COULD BEAR NO MORE. HE TURNED AND FLED.
HA-HA-HA!

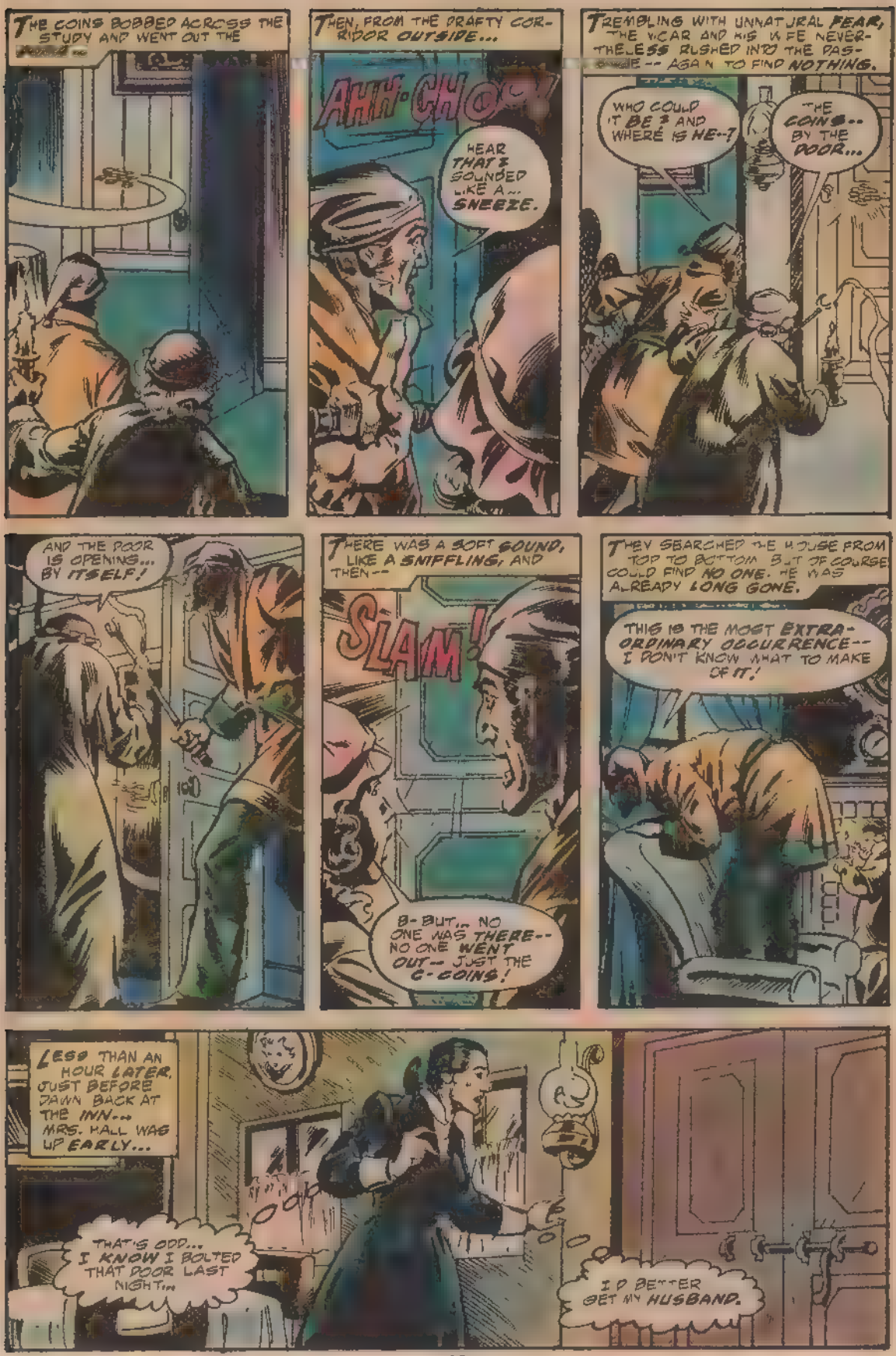
IT FELT LIKE A THUMB AND A FINGER -- TWEAKING MY NOSE -- BUT THERE WAS NOTHING THERE!

PERHAPS I SHOULD TAKE A GOOD REST FOR A FEW DAYS!

BY SPRING, THE STRANGER WAS STILL AT THE INN. AS FAR AS ANYONE COULD TELL, HE HAD NEVER LEFT HIS ROOM...
I'M GETTIN' JUST A LITTLE SICK AND TIRED OF THAT BLOKE -- YOU CAN SMELL HIS FOUL - BREEKING POTIONS EVEN OUT HERE!
YOU SHOULD HAVE TO DELIVER HIS MEALS RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF THE STINK.
IT'S NOT RIGHT, I SAY. HE OWES US THREE WEEKS' RENT NOW!
I TOLD YOU THAT A WEEK AGO -- WHICH MAKES IT FOUR WEEKS' RENT. AND THERE HE SITS, PROMISING THE MONEY ANY DAY NOW -- ALWAYS ANY DAY NOW.
IF YOU ASK ME, HE'S--
BOOM
AN EXPLOSION... FROM HIS ROOM...
THAT BLOODY WELL DOES IT. I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF HIS FOUL-SMELLING TINKERING!
AND WHEN HE STARTS BLOWING UP MY ROOMS, IT'S TIME TO DRAW THE LINE!
SEE HERE, YOU! JUST WHAT THE DEVIL HAVE YOU GONE AND DONE THIS--
GOOD LORD! HE'S BLOWN HIMSELF TO BITS! BLASTED HIS HANDS CLEAN OFF AT THE WRISTS!!

STUPID FOOL! I'VE DONE NO SUCH THING! I'VE ONLY MADE A SLIGHT MISCALCULATION.
NOW GET OUT OF MY ROOM AND LET ME CLEAN UP.
YOUR ROOM-- ? OP ALL THE BLOODY--
I SAID GET OUT!!
VERY WELL -- BUT IT'S YOU WHO'LL BE GETTING OUT OF IT IF YOU DON'T SETTLE UP YOUR RENT, AND RIGHT QUICK!
SO YOU WANT YOUR RENT MONEY, DO YOU? VERY WELL... I SHALL GET IT FOR YOU...
TONIGHT.
SLAM!
LATE THAT NIGHT, AS THE VICAR -- MR. BUNTING, AND HIS WIFE WERE FAST ASLEEP...
KRE-E-E-E-K
M.M.M.M...?
SKUFF
BUMP
WAKE UP -- I THINK THERE'S SOMEONE DOWN-STAIRS -- FUMBLING AROUND IN YOUR STUDY...!
EH--? WHAT...?
I SAID THERE'S A BURGLAR DOWNSTAIRS -- ROBBING YOUR STUDY.

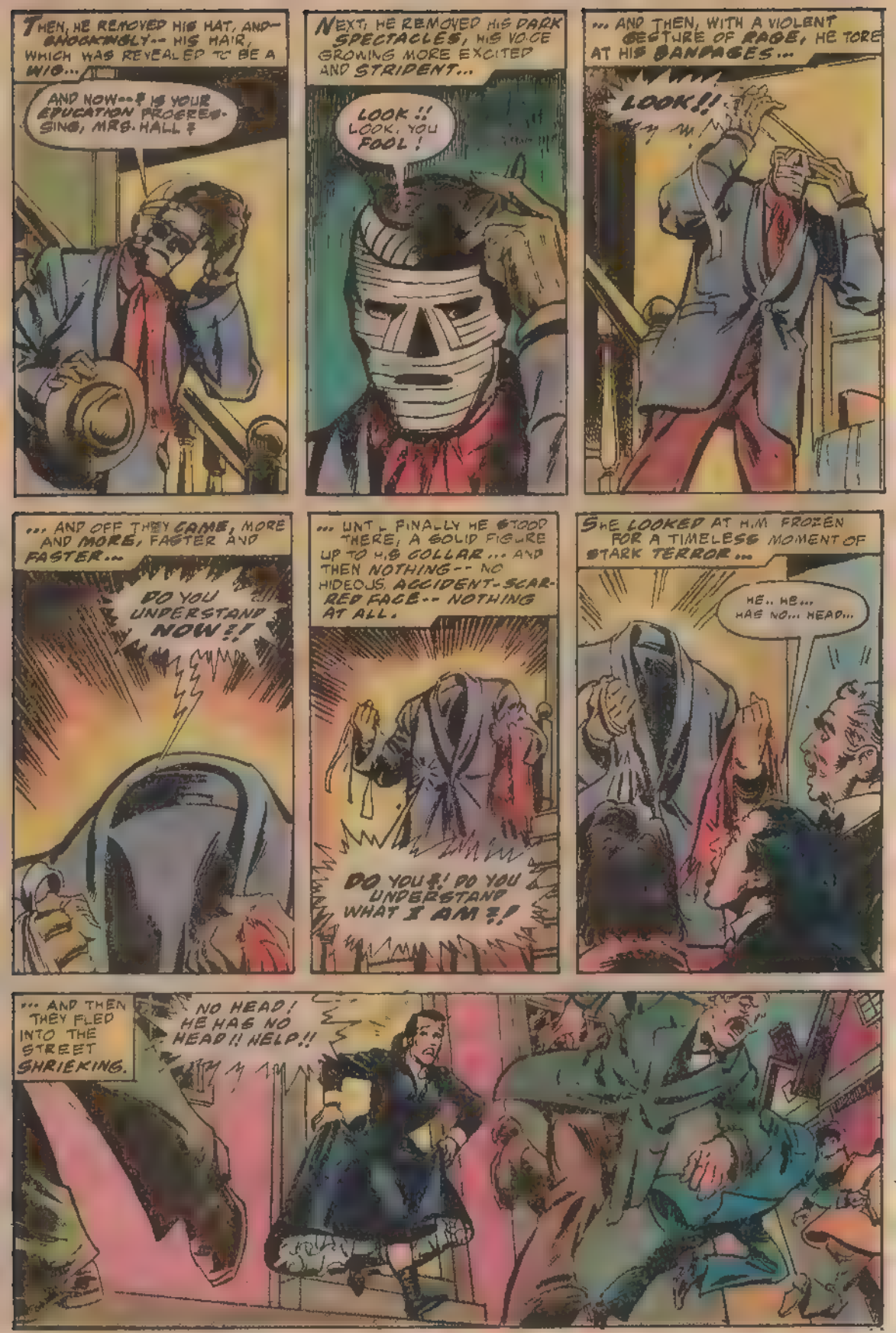
BURGLAR, EH? DON'T KNOW WHO'D HAVE THE GALL TO ROB THE VICARAGE -- BUT HE SHALL SOON FIND OUT.
CREEPING DOWNSTAIRS AS NOISELESSLY AS POSSIBLE, THEY FOUND...
THE STUDY DOOR IS OPEN -- AND SOMEONE'S LIT A CANDLE IN THERE...
GRIPPING THE FIREPLACE POKER FIRMLY AND SUMMONING HIS COURAGE, THE VICAR RUSHED IN TO SURPRISE THE UNKNOWN CRIMINAL...
ALL RIGHT, YOU! SURRENDER AT ONCE OR --
BUT THE ROOM WAS PERFECTLY EMPTY... OR SEEMED TO BE.
EH -- ? NO ONE HERE...? PERHAPS HE'S HIDING SOMEWH --
LOOK! THE DRAWER FOR THE HOUSE-KEEPING MONEY -- IT'S OPEN!
THEN, BEFORE THE AMAZED EYES OF HUSBAND AND WIFE...
THE COINS...!
CHING
CLINK
THEY... THEY ARE... MOVING...!
FLOATING THROUGH THE AIR -- BY THEMSELVES! IT'S MAGIC...
...A MIRACLE...!
AYE... OR THE WORK OF THE DEVIL.


THE COINS BOBBED ACROSS THE STUDY AND WENT OUT THE
THEN, FROM THE DRAFTY CORRIDOR OUTSIDE...
AHH-CHOO!
I HEAR THAT! SOUNDED LIKE A... SNEEZE.
TREMBLING WITH UNNATURAL FEAR, THE VICAR AND HIS WIFE NEVERTHELESS RUSHED INTO THE PASSAGE -- AGAIN TO FIND NOTHING.
WHO COULD IT BE? AND WHERE IS HE--?
THE COINS... BY THE DOOR...
AND THE DOOR IS OPENING... BY ITSELF!
THERE WAS A SOFT SOUND, LIKE A SNIFFLING, AND THEN--
SLAM!
B-BUT... NO ONE WAS THERE-- NO ONE WENT OUT-- JUST THE C-COINS!
THEY SEARCHED THE HOUSE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM BUT OF COURSE COULD FIND NO ONE. HE WAS ALREADY LONG GONE.
THIS IS THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCE-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT!
LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER, JUST BEFORE DAWN BACK AT THE INN... MRS. HALL WAS UP EARLY...
OOP
THAT'S ODD... I KNOW I BOLTED THAT DOOR LAST NIGHT...
I'D BETTER GET MY HUSBAND.

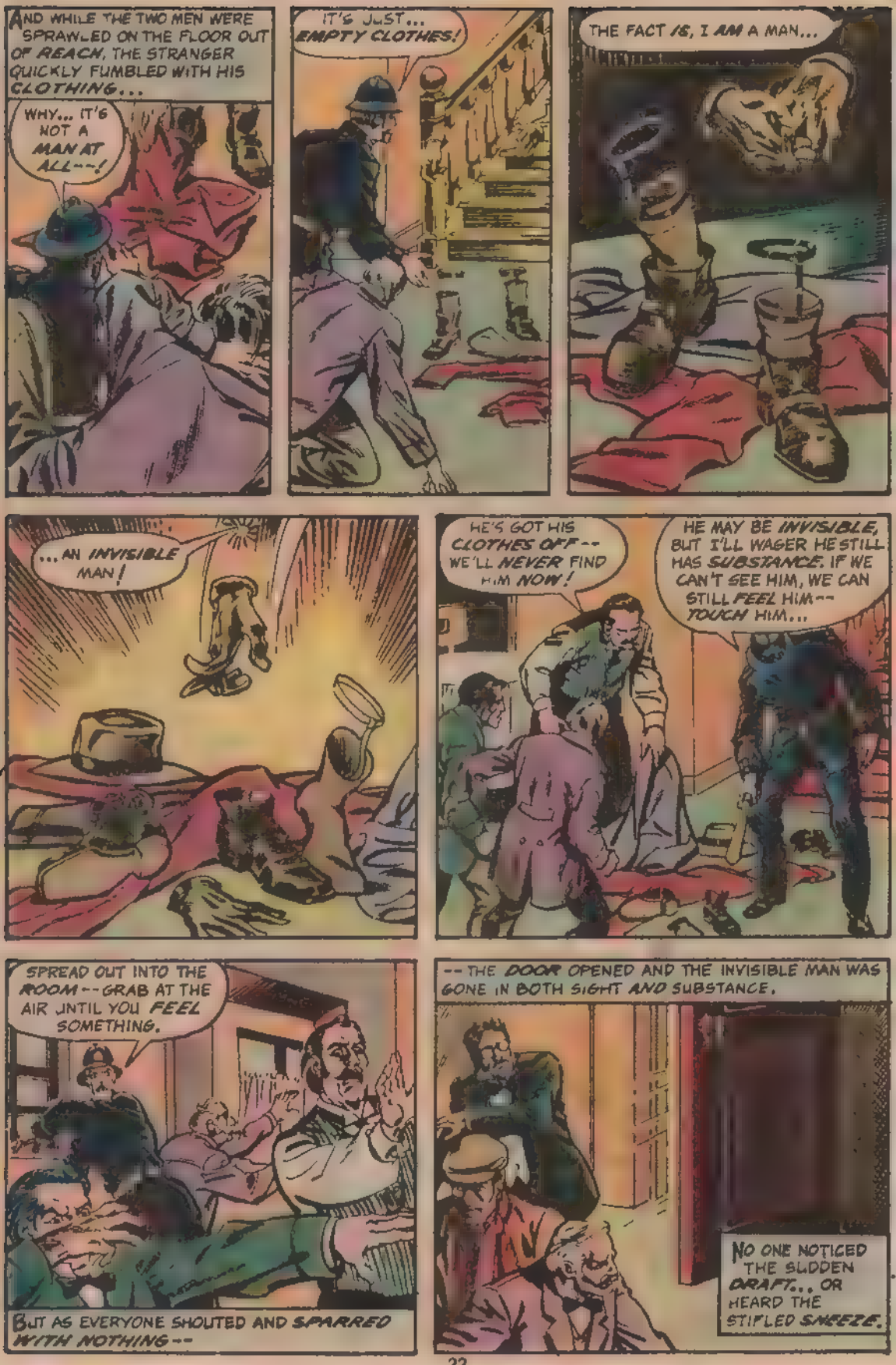
YOU SEE? HIS DOOR IS OPEN -- I'LL BET HE'S RUN OUT TO AVOID PAYING UP HIS RENT.
HE'S GONE, ALL RIGHT -- BUT HE'S LEFT HIS CLOTHES. CURIOUS BUSINESS, THIS. WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE WAS A BLOODY MADMAN ESCAPED FROM --
OH!
WHAT'S WRONG?
N-NOTHING... JUST THAT I FANCIED I HEARD THE FRONT DOOR OPEN AND SHUT.
JUST SOMEONE WANTIN BREAKFAST, NO DOUBT...
ACHOO!
LOOK AT THIS -- HE'S LEFT ALL HIS THINGS BEHIND.
YOU SHOULD WEAR A SHAWL THIS EARLY IN THE DAY.
BUT... BUT IT WASN'T ME WHO SNEEZED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT WASN'T--
THAT... THAT... BOTTLE...
EH--? WHAT BOTTLE?
SPLASH!
UNGH-H!

SUDDENLY, THE STRANGER'S HAT JERKED UP INTO THE AIR AND WHIPPED ACROSS THE ROOM AT MRS. HALL'S FACE...
EEEEE!
THEN A CHAIR TURNED ITSELF ON END, HOVERING IN MID-AIR--
-- BEFORE CHARGING AT THEM.
GOOD... LORD!!
THE CHAIR JABBED AT THEM REPEATEDLY, COMPELLING THEM FROM THE ROOM...
THEN THE DOOR SLAMMED VIOLENTLY SHUT AND IT WAS OVER.
WHAM
IT'S SPIRITS! THE MAN'S PUT EVIL SPIRITS IN MY FURNITURE!
SPIRITS OR NOT I'M GOING TO THE CONSTABLE-- TO SEE THAT AN END IS PUT TO THIS MADMAN AND HIS INFERNAL TRICKS!
WHILE HER HUSBAND WAS GONE, MRS. HALL WAITED BY THE FRONT DOOR TO SEE IF THE STRANGER WOULD RETURN...

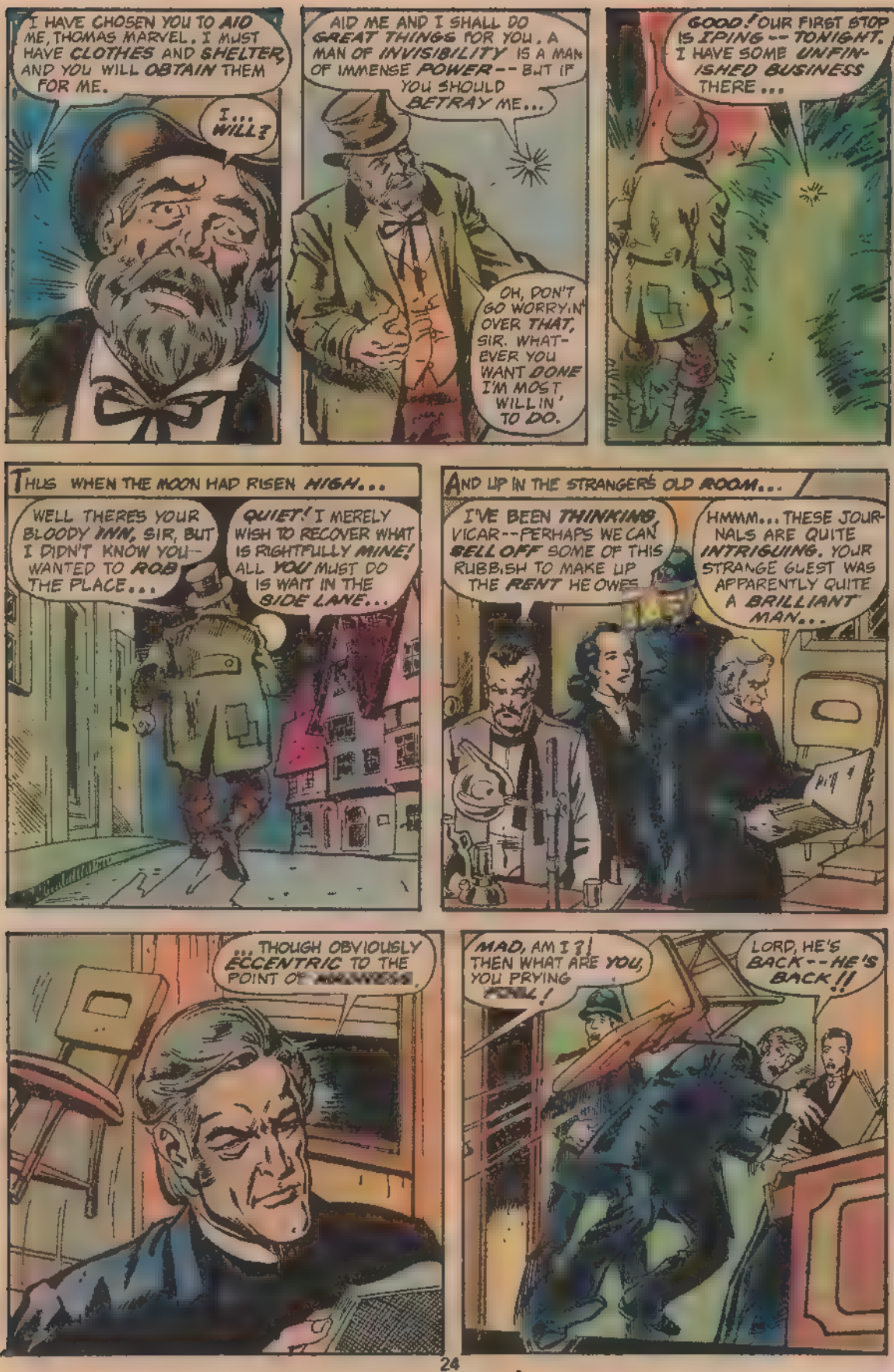
THEN STRANGELY, HE CAME DOWN THE STAIRS -- FROM HIS ROOM.
MRS. HALL! WHY WASN'T MY BREAKFAST LAID OUT?...
WH- WHA--? HOW?...
I...I THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT. HOW DO YOU GET BACK IN AGAIN?
NEVER MIND THAT! MUST YOU FOREVER PRY INTO MY PRIVATE AFFAIRS?!
NOW LISTEN HERE, YOU! THOSE WHO STAY IN THIS HOUSE COME IN BY THE DOORS -- AND THAT YOU DID NOT DO! I WANT TO KNOW--
SILENCE, WOMAN! YOU'VE BADGERED ME LONG ENOUGH!
HERE -- HERE'S SOME MONEY FOR YOUR CURSED RENT! THIS SHOULD PUT SOME QUIET INTO YOU!
SO... SUDDENLY YOU'VE GOT SOME COINS, HAVE YOU? THESE WOULDN'T BE THE SAME COINS I'VE HEARD WERE STOLEN FROM THE VICARAGE LAST NIGHT?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU --
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND -- YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHO I AM -- OR WHAT I AM.
BUT BY HEAVEN, IT'S TIME I SHOWED YOU!!
SO SAYING, HE PUT HIS GLOVED HAND OVER H
-- AND WHEN HE WITHDREW IT, THE CENTER OF HIS GAUZE-WRAPPED FACE BECAME A BLACK CAVITY.
THERE! NOW DO YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND--?

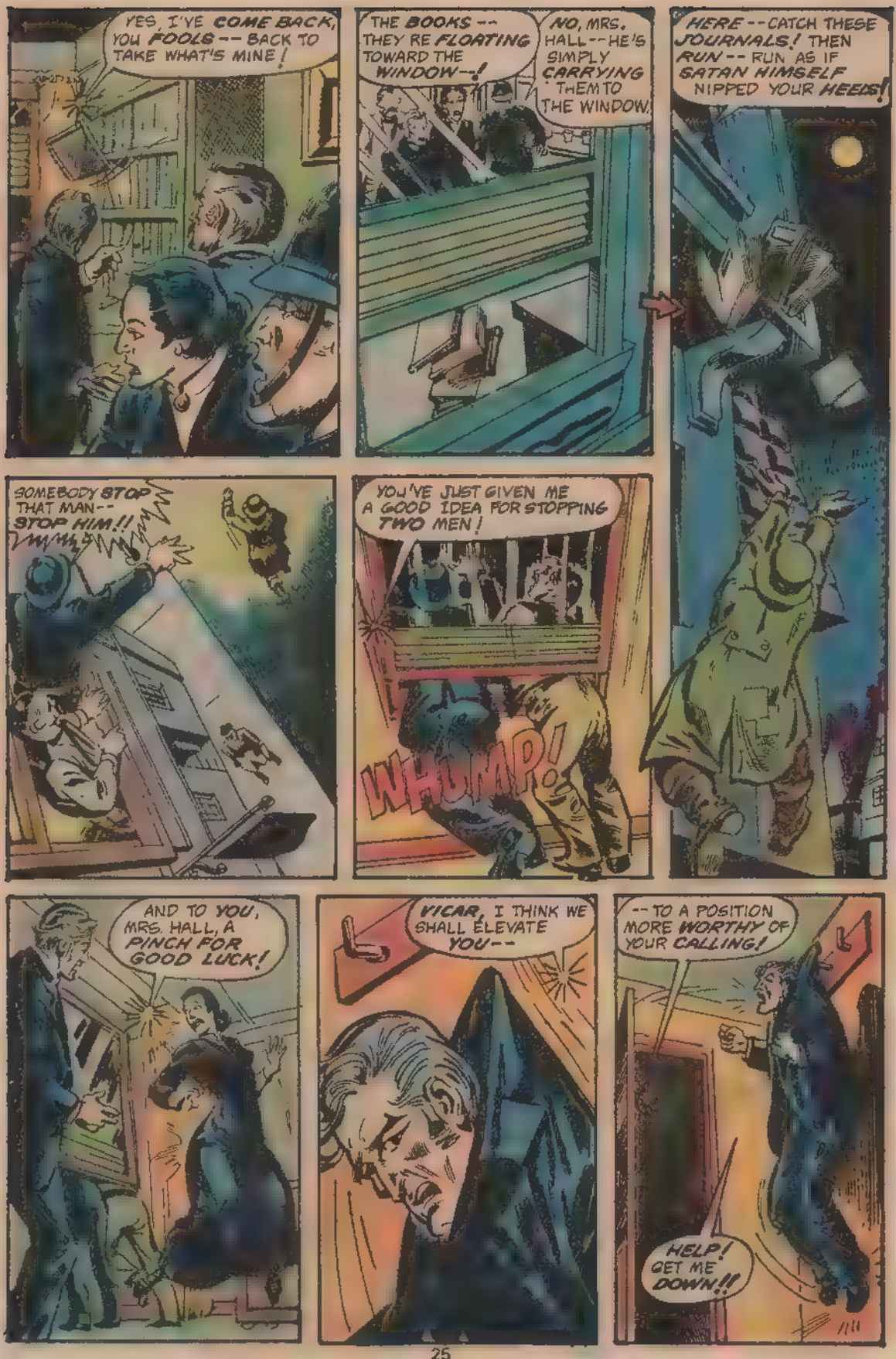

THEN, HE REMOVED HIS HAT, AND—SHOCKINGLY— HIS HAIR, WHICH WAS REVEALED TO BE A WIG...
AND NOW—? IS YOUR EDUCATION PROGRESSING, MRS. HALL?
NEXT, HE REMOVED HIS DARK SPECTACLES, HIS VOICE GROWING MORE EXCITED AND STRIDENT...
LOOK!! LOOK, YOU FOOL!
... AND THEN, WITH A VIOLENT GESTURE OF RAGE, HE TORE AT HIS BANDAGES...
LOOK!!
... AND OFF THEY CAME, MORE AND MORE, FASTER AND FASTER...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?!
... UNTIL FINALLY HE STOOD THERE, A SOLID FIGURE UP TO HIS COLLAR... AND THEN NOTHING— NO HIDEOUS, ACCIDENT-SCARRED FACE— NOTHING AT ALL.
DO YOU?! DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM?!
SHE LOOKED AT HIM FROZEN FOR A TIMELESS MOMENT OF STARK TERROR...
HE.. HE... HAS NO... HEAD...
... AND THEN THEY FLED INTO THE STREET SHRIEKING.
NO HEAD! HE HAS NO HEAD!! HELP!!

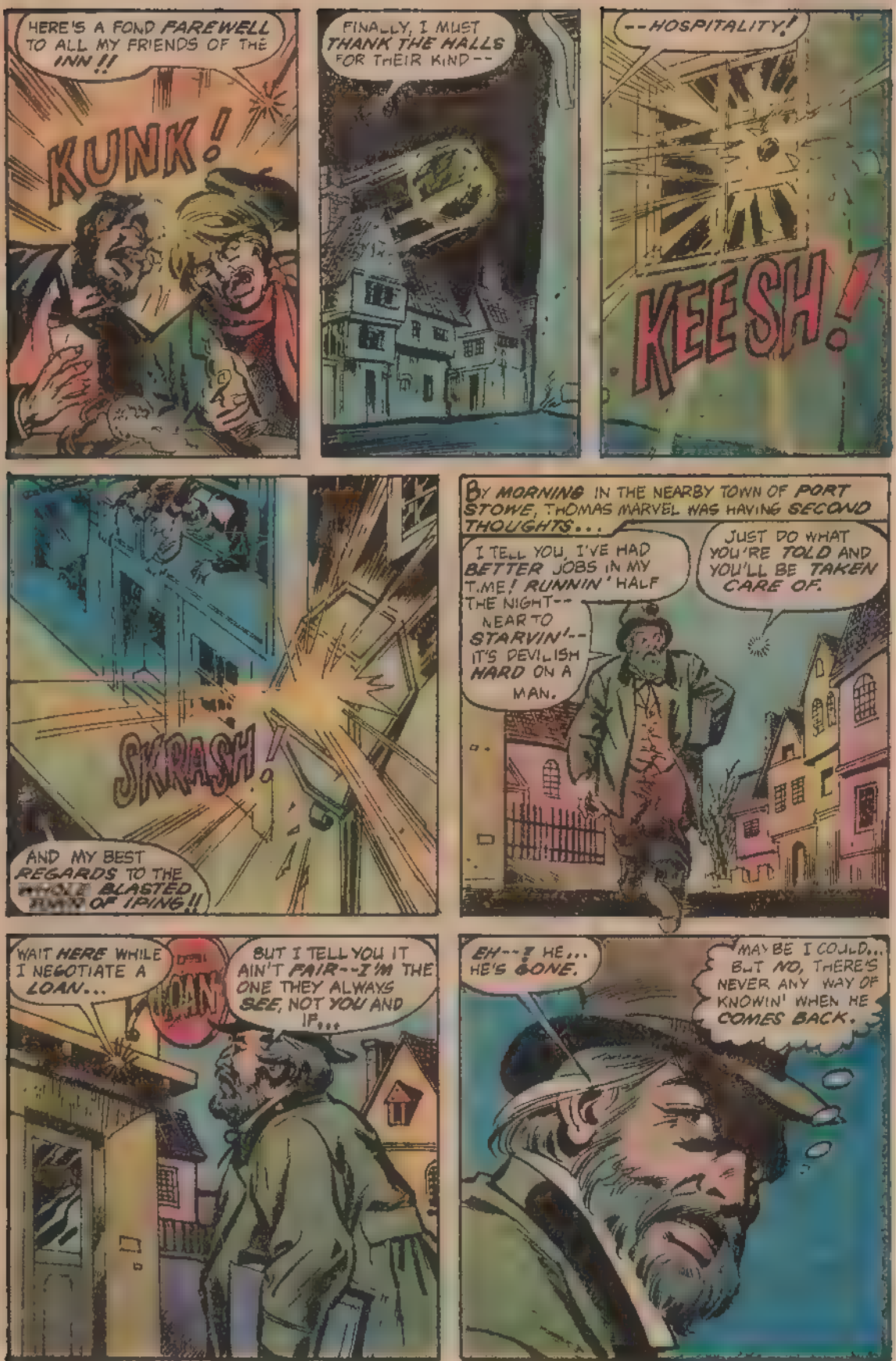
MR HALL WAS JUST ARRIVING WITH THE CONSTABLE...
HE HAS NO HEAD, I TELL YOU!!
WHAT--?
WELL, WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT-- BUT HEAD OR NO HEAD, I'M GOING TO ARREST THE BLACKGUARD!
THE CONSTABLE RAN INTO THE INN--
--AND MARCHED STRAIGHT UP TO THE BIZARRE HEADLESS FIGURE.
BLIMEY! YOU DON'T HAVE A HEAD--!
NOW SEE HERE, YOU--
THEN AS THE CONSTABLE DREW CLOSER OFF CAME THE STRANGER'S JACKET--AND THE CONSTABLE WAS SHOVED BACKWARD BY A DISEMBODIED GLOVE...
KEEP AWAY FROM ME, YOU IGNORANT LOUT!
THE CONSTABLE MADE A DESPERATE GRAB FOR THE STRANGER, BUT ONE OF THE GLOVES BALLED INTO A FIST, STRUCK HIM IN THE FACE...
FWAK
UHHN--!
ONE OF THE OTHER MEN RUSHED FORWARD BUT AGAIN THE DISEMBODIED GLOVES DARTED OUT AND--
KASHH!

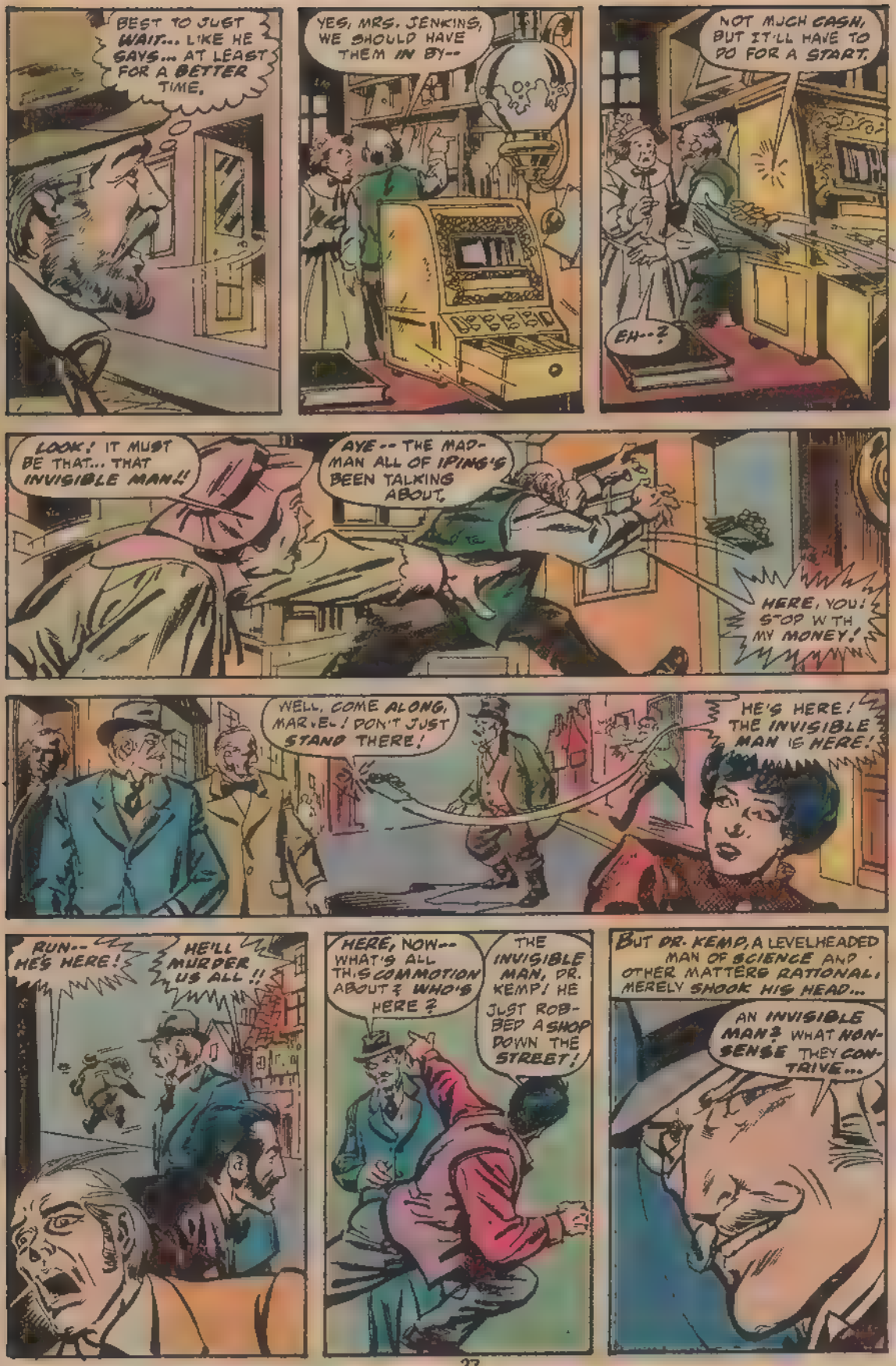

AND WHILE THE TWO MEN WERE SPRAWLED ON THE FLOOR OUT OF REACH, THE STRANGER QUICKLY FUMBLED WITH HIS CLOTHING...
WHY... IT'S NOT A MAN AT ALL---!
IT'S JUST... EMPTY CLOTHES!
THE FACT IS, I AM A MAN...
...AN INVISIBLE MAN!
HE'S GOT HIS CLOTHES OFF -- WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM NOW!
HE MAY BE INVISIBLE, BUT I'LL WAGER HE STILL HAS SUBSTANCE. IF WE CAN'T SEE HIM, WE CAN STILL FEEL HIM-- TOUCH HIM...
SPREAD OUT INTO THE ROOM -- GRAB AT THE AIR UNTIL YOU FEEL SOMETHING.
BUT AS EVERYONE SHOUTED AND SPARRED WITH NOTHING --
-- THE DOOR OPENED AND THE INVISIBLE MAN WAS GONE IN BOTH SIGHT AND SUBSTANCE.
NO ONE NOTICED THE SUDDEN DRAFT... OR HEARD THE STIFLED SNEEZE.

LATER THAT DAY, ABOUT A MILE AND A HALF FROM IPING, A TRAMP NAMED THOMAS MARVEL WAS SITTING BY A ROAD-SIDE...
...WHEN HE HEARD A VOICE BEHIND HIM...
YOU, THERE!
EH--?
WHO IS IT? WHERE ARE YOU--?
RIGHT HERE. KEEP YOUR NERVES STEADY NOW, FOR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ME.
I MUST BE DREAMIN' --OR OFF MY BLOOMIN' CHUMP! I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD A VOICE...
OF COURSE YOU DID!
I'M RIGHT HERE NEXT TO YOU BUT I'M INVISIBLE --YOU'RE LOOKING RIGHT THROUGH ME NOW.
INVISIBLE-? SEE HERE-- NOBODY PLAYS TRICKS ON THOMAS MARVEL! NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLIN' ME YOU'RE THIN AIR!
NO I'M A HUMAN BEING -- SOLID, NEEDING FOOD AND DRINK, AND NEEDING COVERING, TOO -- JUST LIKE YOU, THOMAS MARVEL, EXCEPT I'M INVISIBLE.
WELL, IF YOU'RE REAL --AND SOLID --LET'S HAVE A TOUCH OF YOU...
THE TRAMP SUDDENLY JUMPED AS HE FELT AN UNSEEN HAND FIRMLY GRASP HIS OWN...
WELL, I'LL BE DASHED! YOU'VE CERTAINLY GOT A STRONG GRIP ANYWAY.

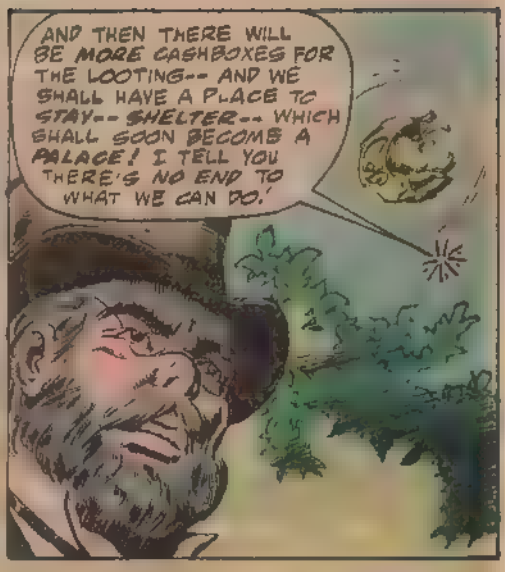

I HAVE CHOSEN YOU TO AID ME, THOMAS MARVEL. I MUST HAVE CLOTHES AND SHELTER, AND YOU WILL OBTAIN THEM FOR ME.
I... WILL?
AID ME AND I SHALL DO GREAT THINGS FOR YOU. A MAN OF INVISIBILITY IS A MAN OF IMMENSE POWER -- BUT IF YOU SHOULD BETRAY ME...
OH, DON'T GO WORRYIN' OVER THAT, SIR. WHATEVER YOU WANT DONE I'M MOST WILLIN' TO DO.
GOOD! OUR FIRST STOP IS IPING -- TONIGHT. I HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS THERE...
THUS WHEN THE MOON HAD RISEN HIGH...
WELL THERE'S YOUR BLOODY INN, SIR, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WANTED TO ROB THE PLACE...
QUIET! I MERELY WISH TO RECOVER WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE! ALL YOU MUST DO IS WAIT IN THE SIDE LANE...
AND UP IN THE STRANGER'S OLD ROOM...
I'VE BEEN THINKING, VICAR -- PERHAPS WE CAN SELL OFF SOME OF THIS RUBBISH TO MAKE UP THE RENT HE OWES
HMMM... THESE JOURNALS ARE QUITE INTRIGUING. YOUR STRANGE GUEST WAS APPARENTLY QUITE A BRILLIANT MAN...
...THOUGH OBVIOUSLY ECCENTRIC TO THE POINT OF MADNESS.
MAD, AM I?! THEN WHAT ARE YOU, YOU PRYING FOOL!
LORD, HE'S BACK -- HE'S BACK!!

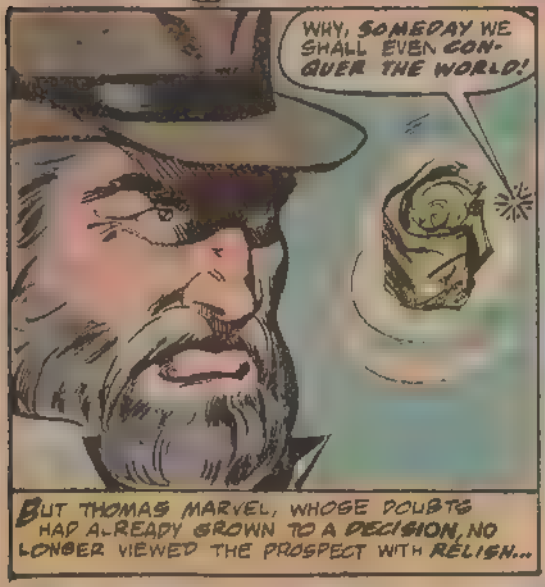

YES, I'VE COME BACK, YOU FOOLS -- BACK TO TAKE WHAT'S MINE!
THE BOOKS -- THEY RE FLOATING TOWARD THE WINDOW--!
NO, MRS. HALL -- HE'S SIMPLY CARRYING THEM TO THE WINDOW.
HERE -- CATCH THESE JOURNALS! THEN RUN -- RUN AS IF SATAN HIMSELF NIPPED YOUR HEELS!
SOMEBODY STOP THAT MAN -- STOP HIM!!
YOU'VE JUST GIVEN ME A GOOD IDEA FOR STOPPING TWO MEN!
WHUMP!
AND TO YOU, MRS. HALL, A PINCH FOR GOOD LUCK!
VICAR, I THINK WE SHALL ELEVATE YOU--
-- TO A POSITION MORE WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING!
HELP! GET ME DOWN!!


HERE'S A FOND FAREWELL TO ALL MY FRIENDS OF THE INN!!
KUNK!
FINALLY, I MUST THANK THE HALLS FOR THEIR KIND--
--HOSPITALITY!
KEESH!
SKRASH!
AND MY BEST REGARDS TO THE WHOLE BLASTED TWO OF YIPING!!
BY MORNING IN THE NEARBY TOWN OF PORT STOWE, THOMAS MARVEL WAS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS...
I TELL YOU, I'VE HAD BETTER JOBS IN MY TIME! RUNNIN' HALF THE NIGHT-- NEAR TO STARVIN'-- IT'S DEVILISH HARD ON A MAN.
JUST DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD AND YOU'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF.
WAIT HERE WHILE I NEGOTIATE A LOAN...
LOAN
BUT I TELL YOU IT AIN'T FAIR--I'M THE ONE THEY ALWAYS SEE, NOT YOU AND IF...
EH--? HE... HE'S GONE.
MAYBE I COULD... BUT NO, THERE'S NEVER ANY WAY OF KNOWIN' WHEN HE COMES BACK.


BEST TO JUST WAIT... LIKE HE SAYS... AT LEAST FOR A BETTER TIME.
YES, MRS. JENKINS, WE SHOULD HAVE THEM IN BY--
NOT MUCH CASH, BUT IT'LL HAVE TO DO FOR A START.
EH--?
LOOK! IT MUST BE THAT... THAT INVISIBLE MAN!!
AYE -- THE MAD-MAN ALL OF IPING'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT.
HERE, YOU! STOP WITH MY MONEY!
WELL, COME ALONG, MARVEL! DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
HE'S HERE! THE INVISIBLE MAN IS HERE!
RUN-- HE'S HERE! HE'LL MURDER US ALL !!
HERE, NOW-- WHAT'S ALL THIS COMMOTION ABOUT? WHO'S HERE?
THE INVISIBLE MAN, DR. KEMP! HE JUST ROBBED A SHOP DOWN THE STREET!
BUT DR. KEMP, A LEVELHEADED MAN OF SCIENCE AND OTHER MATTERS RATIONAL, MERELY SHOOK HIS HEAD...
AN INVISIBLE MAN? WHAT NONSENSE THEY CONTRIVE...

WHILE, JUST OUTSIDE THE [illegible]...
YOU SEE, MARVEL? DID I NOT TELL YOU I COULD DO GREAT THINGS?! NOW WE CAN EAT.

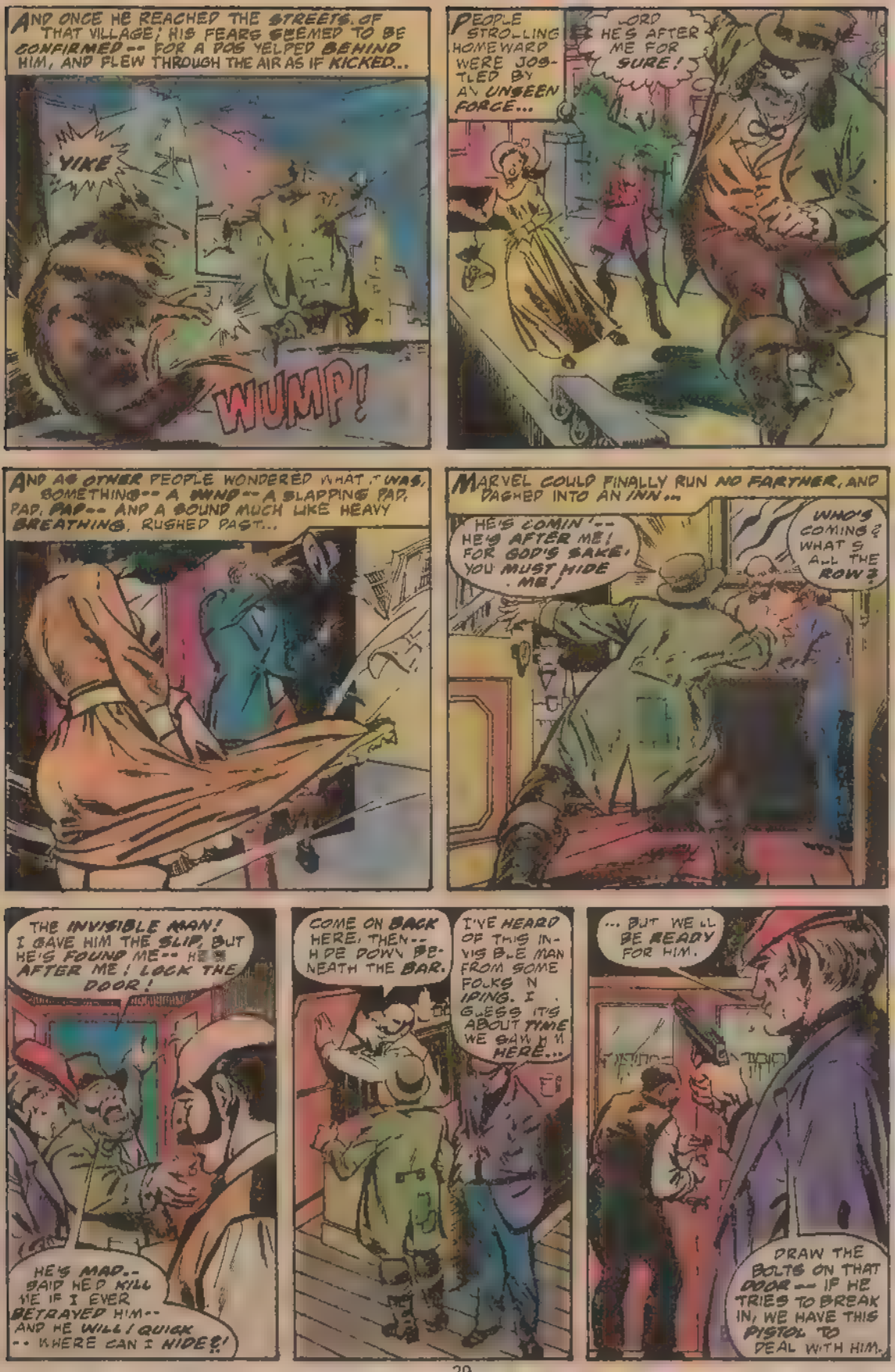

AND THEN THERE WILL BE MORE CASHBOXES FOR THE LOOTING-- AND WE SHALL HAVE A PLACE TO STAY-- SHELTER-- WHICH SHALL SOON BECOME A PALACE! I TELL YOU THERE'S NO END TO WHAT WE CAN DO.'

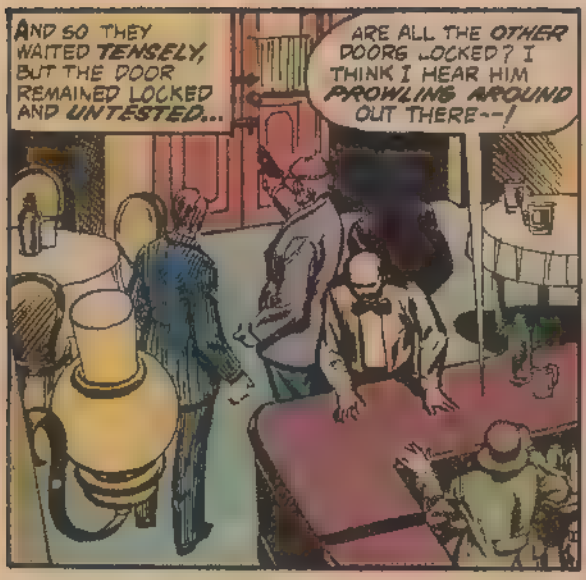

WHY, SOMEDAY WE SHALL EVEN CONQUER THE WORLD!
BUT THOMAS MARVEL, WHOSE DOUBTS HAD ALREADY GROWN TO A DECISION, NO LONGER VIEWED THE PROSPECT WITH RELISH...

... AND SO, AFTER TWO MORE DAYS-- IN WHICH HE WAS FORCED TO AID HIS TRANSPARENT MASTER-- HE FINALLY SEIZED WHAT HE FELT TO BE AN OPPORTUNITY...
YOU'RE SLEEPING, EH...?

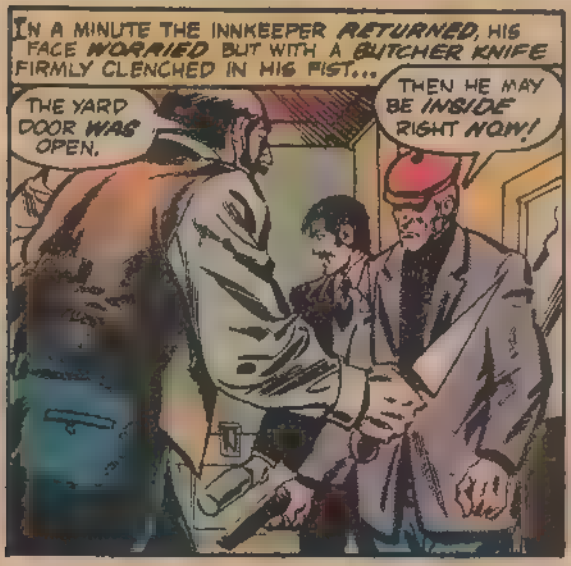
... AND SLIPPED AWAY FROM AN ENTIRELY UNSAVORY EXPERIENCE.

BUT ONCE HE WAS BEYOND RANGE OF HEARING, AND WELL KNOWING THE DANGERS OF FALSE SECURITY WHERE AN INVISIBLE THREAT WAS CONCERNED, HE FLED AT FULL SPEED TOWARD THE VILLAGE OF PORT BURDOCK...


AND ONCE HE REACHED THE STREETS OF THAT VILLAGE; HIS FEARS SEEMED TO BE CONFIRMED -- FOR A DOG YELPED BEHIND HIM, AND FLEW THROUGH THE AIR AS IF KICKED...
YIKE
WUMP!
PEOPLE STROLLING HOMEWARD WERE JOSTLED BY AN UNSEEN FORCE...
LORD HE'S AFTER ME FOR SURE!
AND AS OTHER PEOPLE WONDERED WHAT IT WAS, SOMETHING -- A WIND -- A SLAPPING PAD, PAD, PAD -- AND A SOUND MUCH LIKE HEAVY BREATHING, RUSHED PAST...
MARVEL COULD FINALLY RUN NO FARTHER, AND DASHED INTO AN INN...
HE'S COMIN' -- HE'S AFTER ME! FOR GOD'S SAKE, YOU MUST HIDE ME!
WHO'S COMING? WHAT'S ALL THE ROW?
THE INVISIBLE MAN! I GAVE HIM THE SLIP, BUT HE'S FOUND ME -- HE'S AFTER ME! LOCK THE DOOR!
HE'S MAD.. SAID HE'D KILL ME IF I EVER BETRAYED HIM -- AND HE WILL! QUICK -- WHERE CAN I HIDE?!
COME ON BACK HERE, THEN -- HIDE DOWN BENEATH THE BAR.
I'VE HEARD OF THIS INVISIBLE MAN FROM SOME FOLKS IN IPING. I GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME WE SAW HIM HERE...
... BUT WE'LL BE READY FOR HIM.
DRAW THE BOLTS ON THAT DOOR -- IF HE TRIES TO BREAK IN, WE HAVE THIS PISTOL TO DEAL WITH HIM.


AND SO THEY WAITED TENSELY, BUT THE DOOR REMAINED LOCKED AND UNTESTED...
ARE ALL THE OTHER DOORS LOCKED? I THINK I HEAR HIM PROWLING AROUND OUT THERE--!

THERE'S THE BACK DOOR--I CLEAN [illegible] ABOUT IT!
I'LL SEE TO IT NOW.

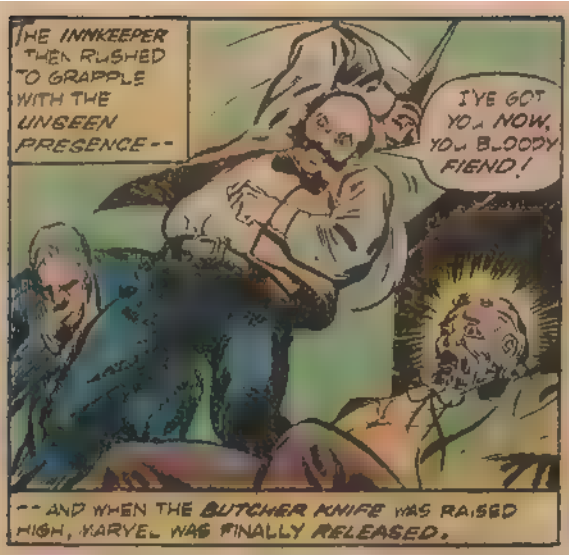

IN A MINUTE THE INNKEEPER RETURNED, HIS FACE WORRIED BUT WITH A BUTCHER KNIFE FIRMLY CLENCHED IN HIS FIST...
THE YARD DOOR WAS OPEN.
THEN HE MAY BE INSIDE RIGHT NOW!

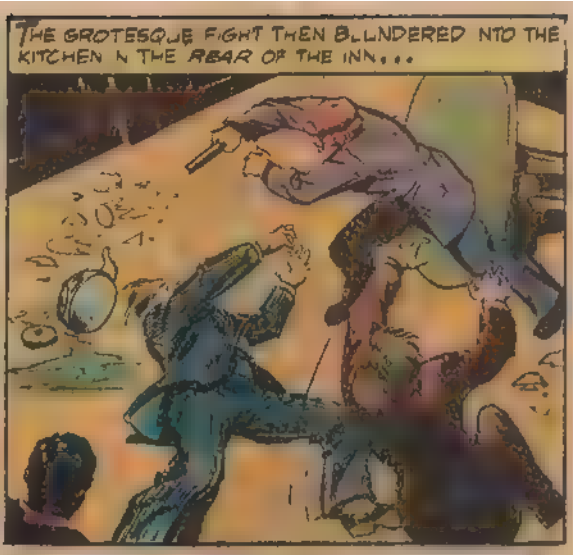
NOT IN THE KITCHEN, HE AIN'T. I'VE JUST STABBED AND SLASHED EVERY INCH OF IT WITH THIS--
YIIEEEE!!
JUST THEN, MARVEL LET OUT A SQUEAL FROM BEHIND THE BAR--

--AND THE OTHERS BOLTED FORWARD AS THE TRAMP APPEARED TO BE STRUGGLING WITH SOMETHING...
AGH-H--! MY... THROAT!

ONE OF THE MEN REACHED OUT AND SEEMED TO GRASP A PORTION OF SOLIDIFIED AIR...
I'VE GOT HIM! I CAN FEEL HIS WRIST! HURRY AND...

BUT A SHOCKING BLOW TO THE FACE--FROM NOWHERE--SENT THE MAN REELING BACK.
UHN--!


THE INNKEEPER THEN RUSHED TO GRAPPLE WITH THE UNSEEN PRESENCE--
I'VE GOT YOU NOW, YOU BLOODY FIEND!
--AND WHEN THE BUTCHER KNIFE WAS RAISED HIGH, HARVEL WAS FINALLY RELEASED.

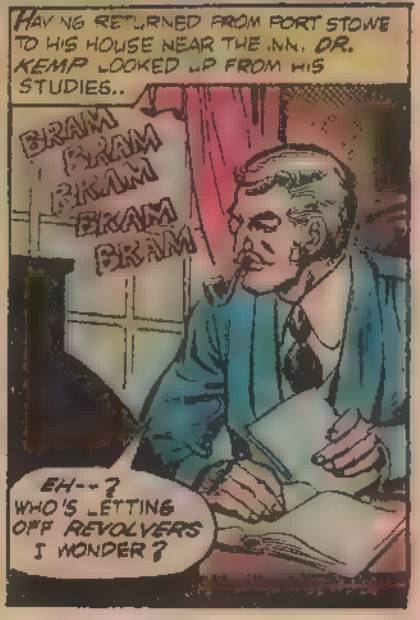

THE GROTESQUE FIGHT THEN BLUNDERED INTO THE KITCHEN IN THE REAR OF THE INN...

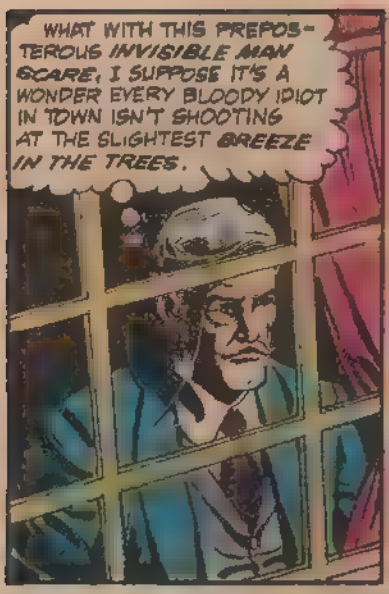
...UNTIL, SUDDENLY, THE REAR DOOR OPENED AND THE MEN FOUND THEMSELVES BATTLING AT EMPTY AIR.

WHERE IS HE--? HAS HE GONE?
YES -- HE MUST HAVE FLED OUT INTO THE YARD!

WELL, I'LL SHOW HIM NOW. I WAS AFRAID TO USE THE PISTOL WHILE WE WERE ALL TANGLED UP, BUT NOW...
YES THE YARD IS SO NARROW THAT ONE OF MY SHOTS MUST HIT HIM...

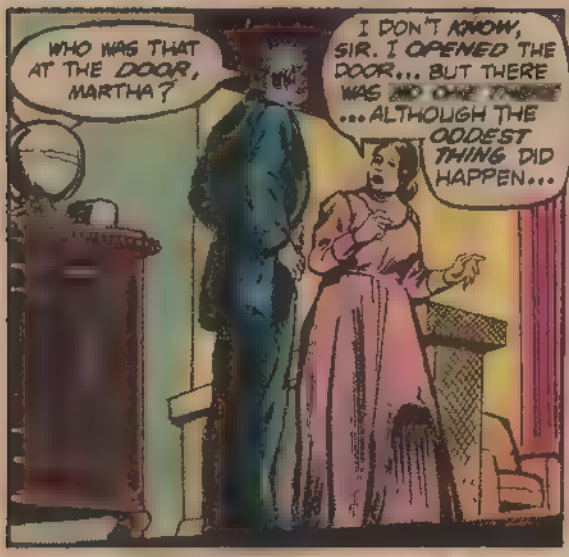
THE MAN SWUNG HIS ARM IN A HORIZONTAL CURVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT AS HE FIRED, AND FIVE BULLETS SPAT INTO THE CONFINED AREA...
BRAM BRAM BRAM BRAM BRAM


HAVING RETURNED FROM PORT STOWE TO HIS HOUSE NEAR THE INN, DR. KEMP LOOKED UP FROM HIS STUDIES..
BRAM BRAM BRAM BRAM BRAM
EH--? WHO'S LETTING OFF REVOLVERS I WONDER?


WHAT WITH THIS PREPOSTEROUS INVISIBLE MAN SCARE, I SUPPOSE IT'S A WONDER EVERY BLOODY IDIOT IN TOWN ISN'T SHOOTING AT THE SLIGHTEST BREEZE IN THE TREES.

AN HOUR LATER, KEMP HEARD HIS DOORBELL RING...
RINGING
HMM... I WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE? PERHAPS AN EMERGENCY CASE... FROM THOSE SHOTS.

AFTER [illegible] HAD PASSED, AND HIS SERVANT HAD FAILED TO ANNOUNCE ANY CALLER, KEMP WAS COMPELLED TO INVESTIGATE FOR HIMSELF...
MARTHA--? MARTHA, WHERE ARE YOU?

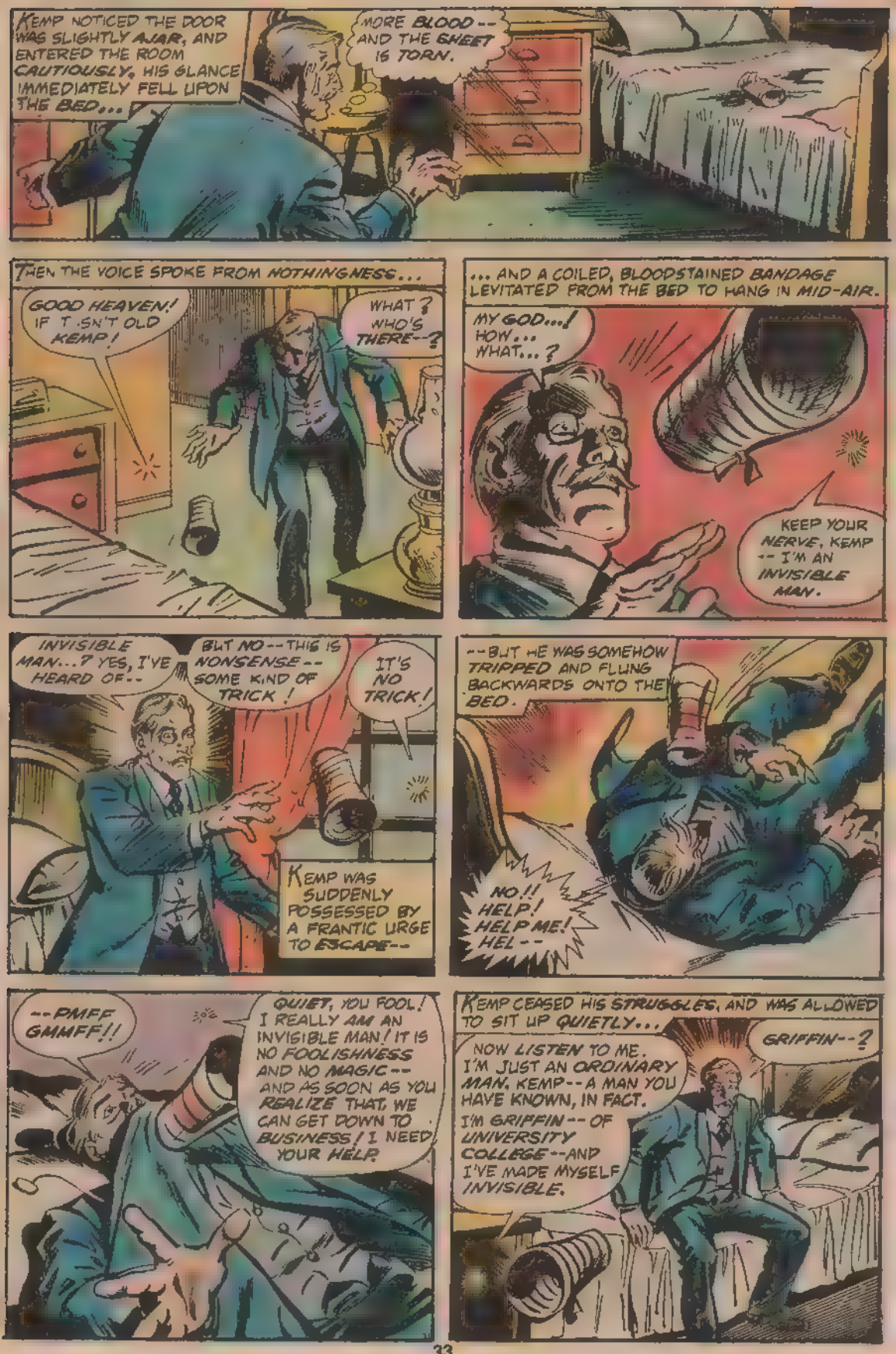

WHO WAS THAT AT THE DOOR, MARTHA?
I DON'T KNOW, SIR. I OPENED THE DOOR... BUT THERE WAS [illegible] ...ALTHOUGH THE OODEST THING DID HAPPEN...

I THOUGHT I HEARD A... SNEEZE.

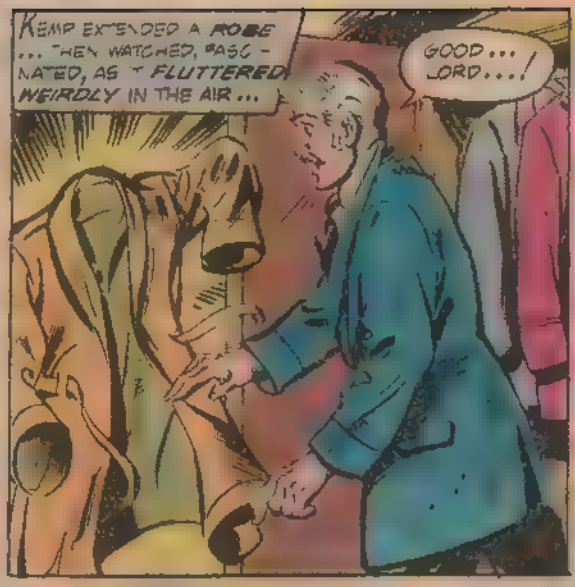
IT WAS TWO O'CLOCK BEFORE DR. KEMP FINISHED HIS WORK FOR THE NIGHT. HE ROSE FROM HIS DESK, ALREADY YAWNING IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS BED...

... BUT CAME SHARPLY AWAKE AS HE NEARED THE DOOR TO HIS ROOM.
GOOD LORD! THE DOOR HANDLE...!

IT'S STAINED WITH BLOOD!

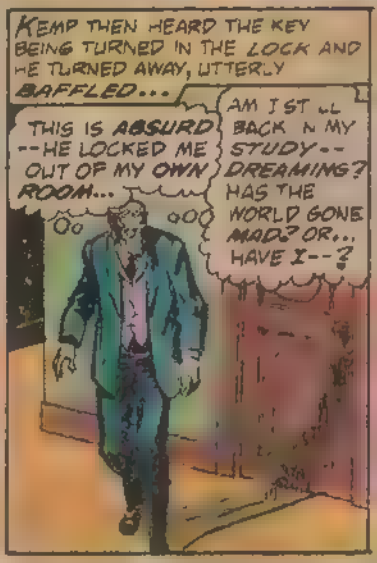

KEMP NOTICED THE DOOR WAS SLIGHTLY AJAR, AND ENTERED THE ROOM CAUTIOUSLY. HIS GLANCE IMMEDIATELY FELL UPON THE BED...
MORE BLOOD -- AND THE SHEET IS TORN.
THEN THE VOICE SPOKE FROM NOTHINGNESS...
GOOD HEAVEN! IF IT ISN'T OLD KEMP!
WHAT? WHO'S THERE--?
... AND A COILED, BLOODSTAINED BANDAGE LEVITATED FROM THE BED TO HANG IN MID-AIR.
MY GOD...! HOW... WHAT...?
KEEP YOUR NERVE, KEMP -- I'M AN INVISIBLE MAN.
INVISIBLE MAN...? YES, I'VE HEARD OF--
BUT NO -- THIS IS NONSENSE -- SOME KIND OF TRICK!
IT'S NO TRICK!
KEMP WAS SUDDENLY POSSESSED BY A FRANTIC URGE TO ESCAPE--
--BUT HE WAS SOMEHOW TRIPPED AND FLUNG BACKWARDS ONTO THE BED.
NO!! HELP! HELP ME! HEL--
--PMFF GMMFF!!
QUIET, YOU FOOL! I REALLY AM AN INVISIBLE MAN! IT IS NO FOOLISHNESS AND NO MAGIC -- AND AS SOON AS YOU REALIZE THAT, WE CAN GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! I NEED YOUR HELP.
KEMP CEASED HIS STRUGGLES, AND WAS ALLOWED TO SIT UP QUIETLY...
GRIFFIN--?
NOW LISTEN TO ME. I'M JUST AN ORDINARY MAN, KEMP -- A MAN YOU HAVE KNOWN, IN FACT. I'M GRIFFIN -- OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE -- AND I'VE MADE MYSELF INVISIBLE.

I... I REMEMBER A STUDENT NAMED GRIFFIN -- HE WON THE MEDAL FOR CHEMISTRY. BUT I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND..
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. BUT RIGHT NOW I'M WOUNDED AND IN PAIN. I MUST REST. HAVE YOU AN EXTRA DRESSING GOWN? THE NIGHT IS CHILLY TO A MAN WITHOUT CLOTHES.

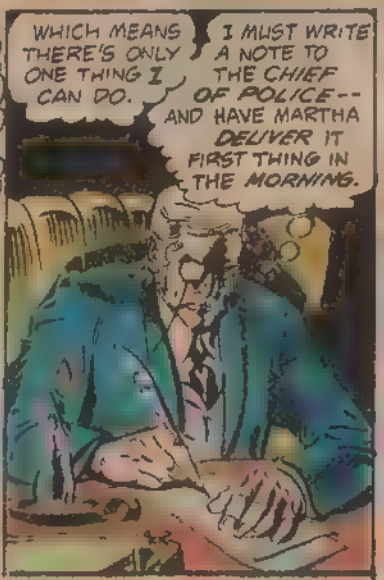

KEMP EXTENDED A ROBE ... THEN WATCHED, FASCINATED, AS IT FLUTTERED WEIRDLY IN THE AIR ...
GOOD... LORD...!

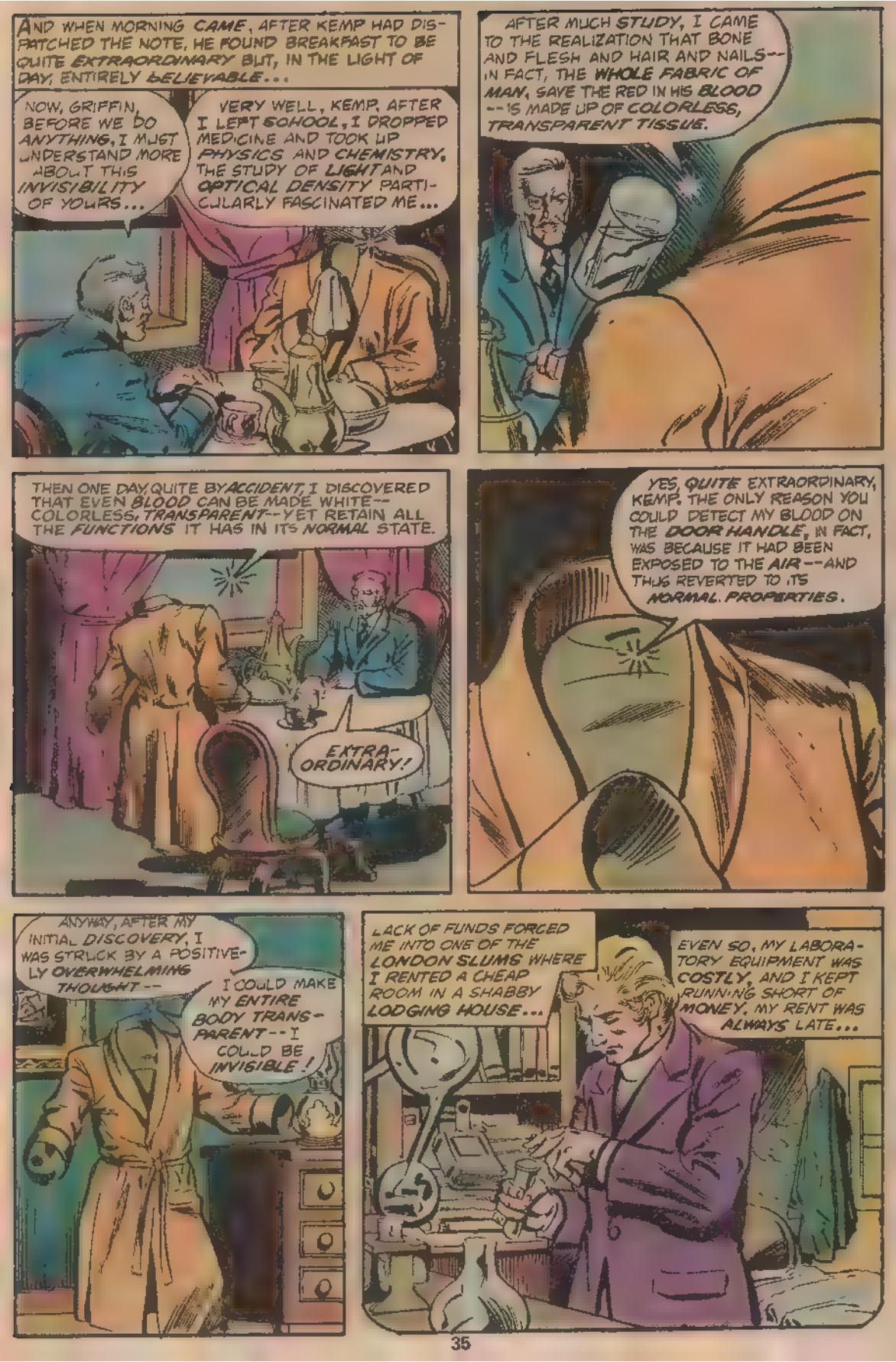
... UNTIL IT STOOD FULL -- AND YET COMPLETELY EMPTY.
BUT... BUT HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU... GET LIKE THIS?
THROUGH A COMPLETELY SANE AND INTELLIGIBLE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT TOMORROW, AFTER I'VE SLEPT.

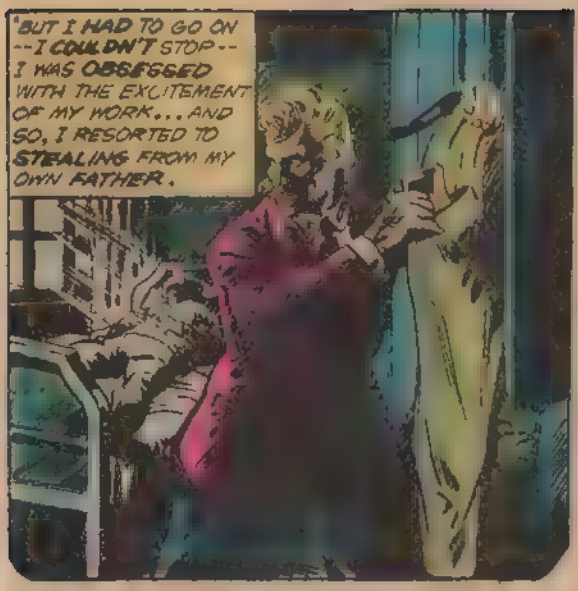
I'D PLANNED TO KEEP IT ALL TO MYSELF, BUT NOW I SEE I MUST HAVE A PARTNER. BELIEVE ME, KEMP TOGETHER WE SHALL DO THINGS SUCH AS THE WORLD OF MAN HAS NEVER DREAMED.
AND NOW... GOOD NIGHT!


KEMP THEN HEARD THE KEY BEING TURNED IN THE LOCK AND HE TURNED AWAY, UTTERLY BAFFLED...
THIS IS ABSURD -- HE LOCKED ME OUT OF MY OWN ROOM...
AM I STILL BACK IN MY STUDY -- DREAMING? HAS THE WORLD GONE MAD? OR... HAVE I --?

AND LATER THAT NIGHT...
THESE STORIES IN THE NEWSPAPER... ABOUT WHAT HE'S DONE. I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT... BUT IT MUST BE TRUE.
AND HE'S DONE TERRIBLE THINGS -- CRIMINAL THINGS...


WHICH MEANS THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO.
I MUST WRITE A NOTE TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE -- AND HAVE MARTHA DELIVER IT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.


AND WHEN MORNING CAME, AFTER KEMP HAD DISPATCHED THE NOTE, HE FOUND BREAKFAST TO BE QUITE EXTRAORDINARY BUT, IN THE LIGHT OF DAY, ENTIRELY BELIEVABLE...
NOW, GRIFFIN, BEFORE WE DO ANYTHING, I MUST UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THIS INVISIBILITY OF YOURS...
VERY WELL, KEMP, AFTER I LEFT SCHOOL, I DROPPED MEDICINE AND TOOK UP PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY, THE STUDY OF LIGHT AND OPTICAL DENSITY PARTICULARLY FASCINATED ME...
AFTER MUCH STUDY, I CAME TO THE REALIZATION THAT BONE AND FLESH AND HAIR AND NAILS--IN FACT, THE WHOLE FABRIC OF MAN, SAVE THE RED IN HIS BLOOD--IS MADE UP OF COLORLESS, TRANSPARENT TISSUE.
THEN ONE DAY QUITE BY ACCIDENT, I DISCOVERED THAT EVEN BLOOD CAN BE MADE WHITE--COLORLESS, TRANSPARENT--YET RETAIN ALL THE FUNCTIONS IT HAS IN ITS NORMAL STATE.
EXTRA-ORDINARY!
YES, QUITE EXTRAORDINARY, KEMP. THE ONLY REASON YOU COULD DETECT MY BLOOD ON THE DOOR HANDLE, IN FACT, WAS BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO THE AIR--AND THUS REVERTED TO ITS NORMAL PROPERTIES.
ANYWAY, AFTER MY INITIAL DISCOVERY, I WAS STRUCK BY A POSITIVELY OVERWHELMING THOUGHT--
I COULD MAKE MY ENTIRE BODY TRANSPARENT--I COULD BE INVISIBLE!
LACK OF FUNDS FORCED ME INTO ONE OF THE LONDON SLUMS WHERE I RENTED A CHEAP ROOM IN A SHABBY LODGING HOUSE...
EVEN SO, MY LABORATORY EQUIPMENT WAS COSTLY, AND I KEPT RUNNING SHORT OF MONEY. MY RENT WAS ALWAYS LATE...


"BUT I HAD TO GO ON --I COULDN'T STOP-- I WAS OBSESSED WITH THE EXCITEMENT OF MY WORK... AND SO, I RESORTED TO STEALING FROM MY OWN FATHER.

THUS IT WENT FOR THREE LONG, GRUELING YEARS OF END[illegible]
JUST THINK WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO BE INVISIBLE --THE POWER, THE MYSTERY, THE BOUNDLESS FREEDOM!

"...UNTIL I FELT I HAD FINALLY MASTERED THE PROCESS.
HOLD STILL, PUSS -- YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME THE PIONEER OF A MIRACLE!

"AND IT WORKED, KEMP...

MEOWLL!
"BY GOD -- IT WORKED!!

"THEN, ONE FATEFUL NIGHT, I TOOK THE MIRACULOUS SERUM MYSELF...

"I STOOD IN FRONT OF A MIRROR, AND WAITED FOR THE PROCESS TO COMPLETE ITSELF. IT TOOK ALL NIGHT --

-- BUT BY MORNING, THE MIRROR REFLECTED NOTHING BUT AN EMPTY SUIT OF CLOTHES!

"FLUSHED WITH TRIUMPH OVER MY ACHIEVEMENT, I THOUGHT OF ALL THE BACK RENT I OWED ON THAT FILTHY ROOM AND THE IDEA CAME TO ME QUICKLY.

"TO COVER MY TRAIL AND TO KEEP MY SECRET FROM FALLING INTO OTHER HANDS, I TOSSED TOGETHER SOME OF MY PAPERS AND SOME LOOSE STRAW ...AND LIT IT.

"THEN, GATHERING UP MY JOURNALS, I SLIPPED FROM THE ROOM--

"...AND OUT INTO THE STREET LEAVING THE SHABBY LOOKING HOUSE IN FLAMES BEHIND ME. I WAS DETERMINED TO LEAVE THE SLUMS FOREVER AND START A NEW LIFE OF UNIMAGINED POWER!

HA HA HA HA

"HARDLY HAD I HIDDEN AWAY MY JOURNALS AND BEGUN MY NEW ADVENTURES WHEN I WAS HIT FROM BEHIND BY A MAN CARRYING A HEAVY BASKET...

EH--? WHAT THE DEVIL?!

"HE LOOKED SO SURPRISED THAT I COULD NOT RESIST TWISTING THE BASKET FROM HIS GRASP AND SWINGING IT INTO THE AIR...

WITCHCRAFT! DEMONS!!

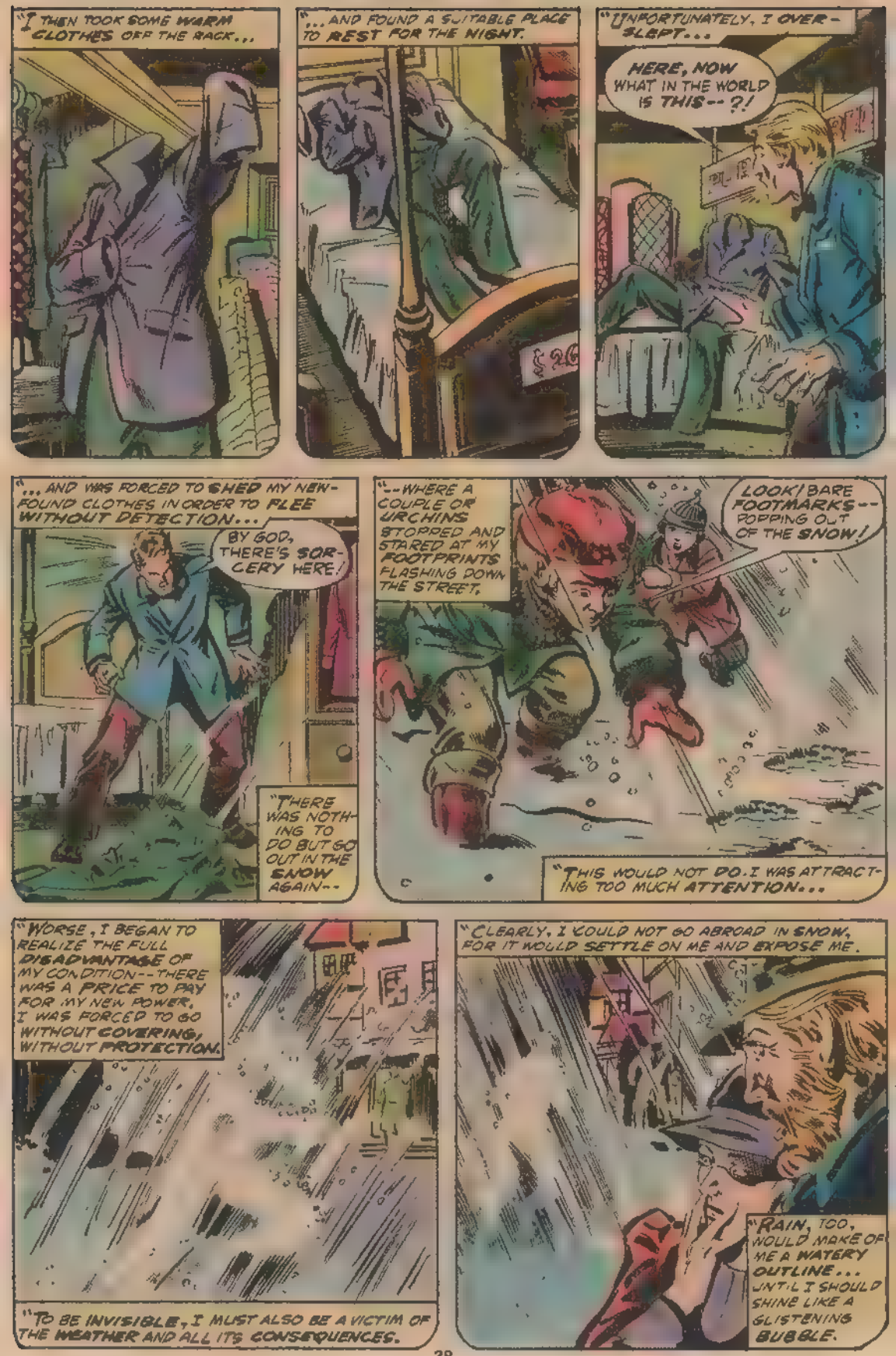
"BUT I SOON TIRED OF SUCH PETTY PRANKS. IT WAS JANUARY, AND BITTER COLD. I'D BEGUN SNEEZING, AND FELT MYSELF GROWING ILL...

DEPARTMENT STORE

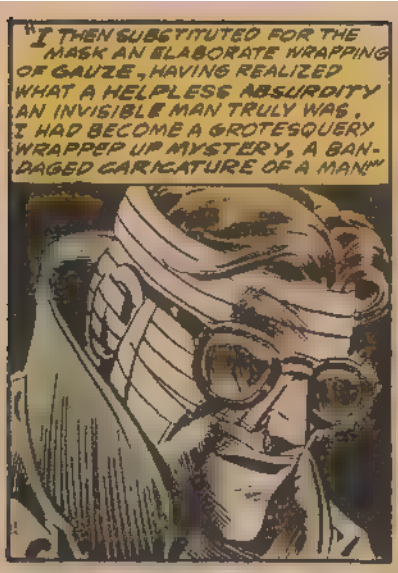
CLEARLY, I NEEDED SHELTER...

"...AND I FOUND IT IN A DEPARTMENT STORE.

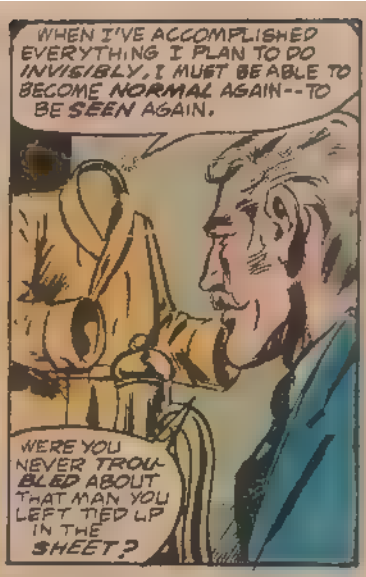
"I WAITED UNTIL THE STORE CLOSED... THEN ATE TO MY STOMACH'S CONTENT.

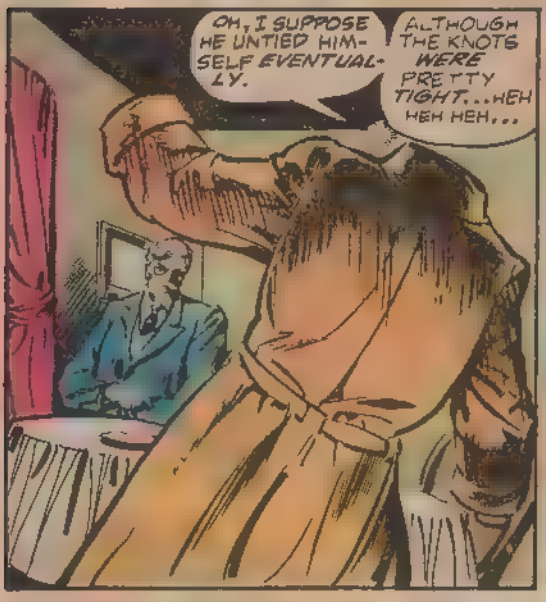

"I THEN TOOK SOME WARM CLOTHES OFF THE RACK...
"...AND FOUND A SUITABLE PLACE TO REST FOR THE NIGHT.
"UNFORTUNATELY, I OVER-SLEPT...
HERE, NOW WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS--?!
"...AND WAS FORCED TO SHED MY NEW-FOUND CLOTHES IN ORDER TO FLEE WITHOUT DETECTION...
BY GOD, THERE'S SORCERY HERE!
"THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO BUT GO OUT IN THE SNOW AGAIN--
"--WHERE A COUPLE OF URCHINS STOPPED AND STARED AT MY FOOTPRINTS FLASHING DOWN THE STREET.
LOOK! BARE FOOTMARKS--POPPING OUT OF THE SNOW!
"THIS WOULD NOT DO. I WAS ATTRACTING TOO MUCH ATTENTION...
"WORSE, I BEGAN TO REALIZE THE FULL DISADVANTAGE OF MY CONDITION--THERE WAS A PRICE TO PAY FOR MY NEW POWER. I WAS FORCED TO GO WITHOUT COVERING, WITHOUT PROTECTION.
"TO BE INVISIBLE, I MUST ALSO BE A VICTIM OF THE WEATHER AND ALL ITS CONSEQUENCES.
"CLEARLY, I COULD NOT GO ABROAD IN SNOW, FOR IT WOULD SETTLE ON ME AND EXPOSE ME.
"RAIN, TOO, WOULD MAKE OF ME A WATERY OUTLINE... UNTIL I SHOULD SHINE LIKE A GLISTENING BUBBLE.

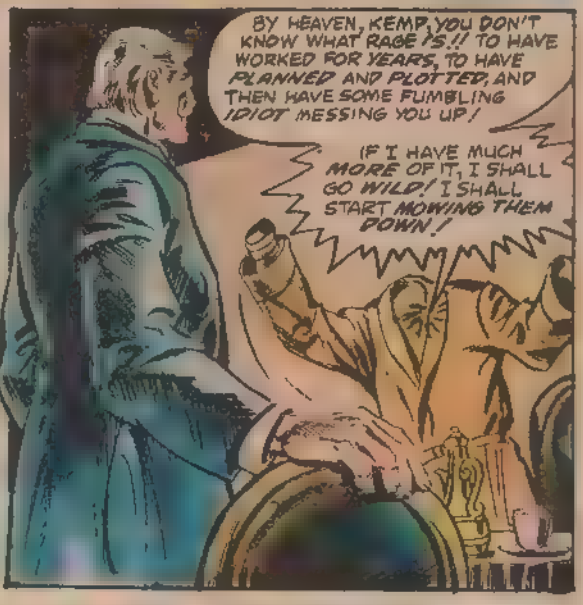
"I WAS GETTING DESPERATE, HUNGRY, AND VERY COLD WHEN I CHANCED UPON A LITTLE SHOP NEAR DRURY LANE WHICH SOLD THEATRICAL COSTUMES.
COSTUMES
"PERHAPS THIS WAS MY SOLUTION.
"I SLIPPED IN AND HAD STARTED TO RUMMAGE AMONG THE MOTLEY STOCK OF STRANGE COSTUMES... WHEN THE OWNER APPEARED
WHO'S THERE? I HEAR YOU!
"I EDGED AWAY, BUT A LOOSE PLANK CREAKED...
WHO'S THERE, I SAY! COME ON OUT--OR I'LL SHOOT YOU!
WITH THAT, I FLEW INTO A RAGE AND BASHED H V ON THE HEAD...
UHNN--!!
WOK
"I GAGGED THE OLD FOOL AND TRUSSED HIM UP IN A SHEET, THEN I DRESSED MYSELF IN SOME OF THE MORE NORMAL CLOTHES AND SELECTED A MASK, TINTED SPECTACLES, FALSE WHISKERS, AND A WIG...
"AFTER TAKING ALL HIS MONEY, I WAS FINALLY READY TO SET FORTH INTO THE WORLD AGAIN--THIS TIME FULLY EQUIPPED TO FACE ANYTHING.
"NO ONE NOTICED ME, PARTICULARLY, AND WITH NEW CONFIDENCE I WENT INTO A PLACE TO ORDER LUNCH... BUT--
WHAT A FOOL I AM! I CAN'T EAT WITH THIS STUPID MASK ON!
"I WAS FORCED TO LEAVE, HUNGRY.

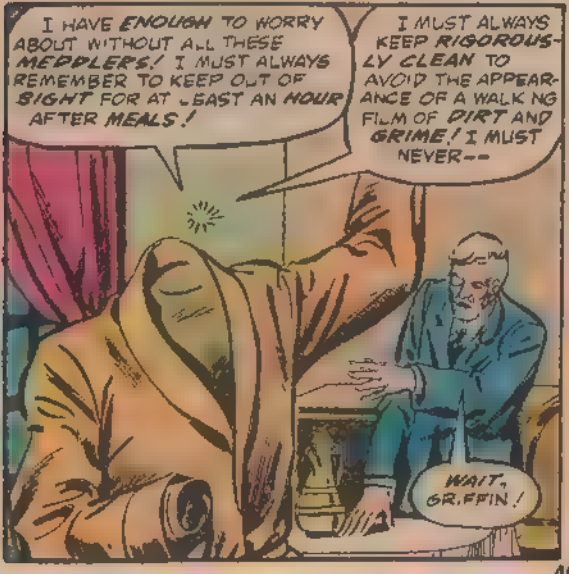

"I THEN SUBSTITUTED FOR THE MASK AN ELABORATE WRAPPING OF GAUZE, HAVING REALIZED WHAT A HELPLESS ABSURDITY AN INVISIBLE MAN TRULY WAS. I HAD BECOME A GROTESQUERY WRAPPED UP MYSTERY, A BANDAGED CARICATURE OF A MAN!"

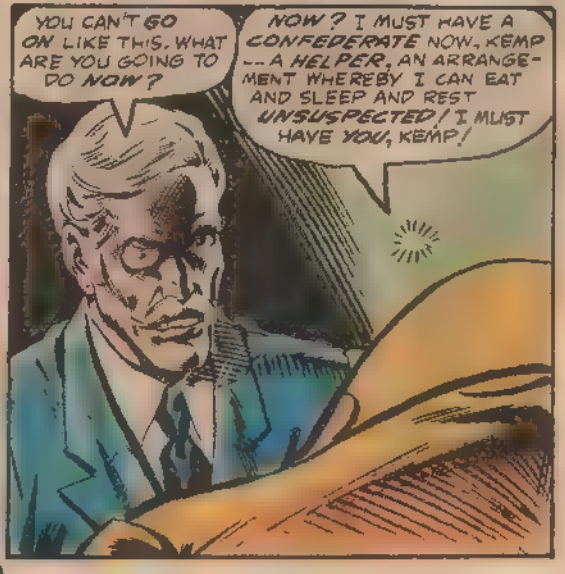
THAT'S WHEN I WENT TO IPINS. TO WORK ON A WAY OF GETTING BACK--OF RESTORING MY VISIBILITY. BUT NOW I'VE LOST MY WORK JOURNALS--NO DOUBT STOLEN BY THAT TRAMP MARVEL.
YOU MUST HELP ME GET THEM BACK, KEMP

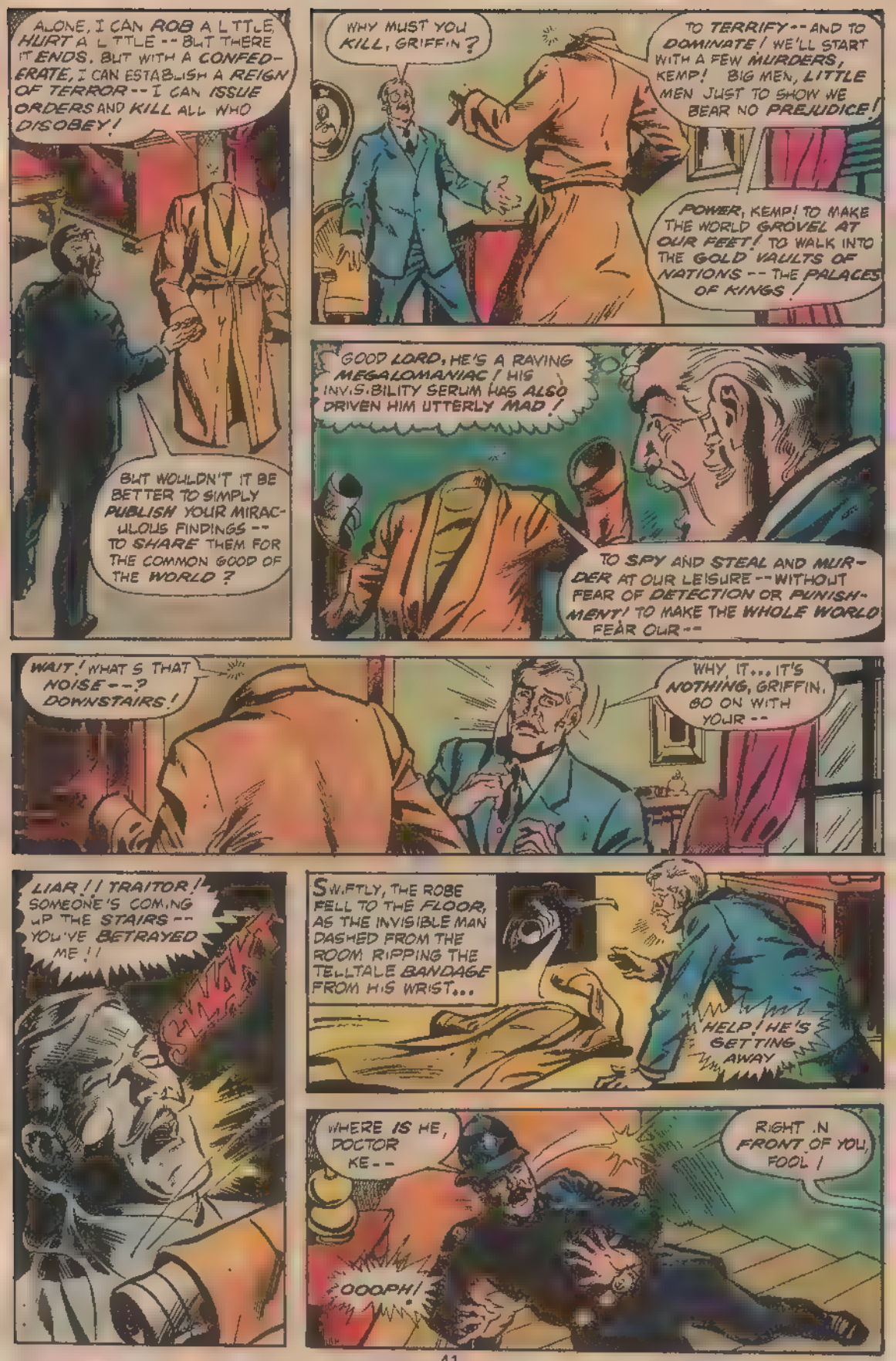

WHEN I'VE ACCOMPLISHED EVERYTHING I PLAN TO DO INVISIBLY, I MUST BE ABLE TO BECOME NORMAL AGAIN--TO BE SEEN AGAIN.
WERE YOU NEVER TROUBLED ABOUT THAT MAN YOU LEFT TIED UP IN THE SHEET?

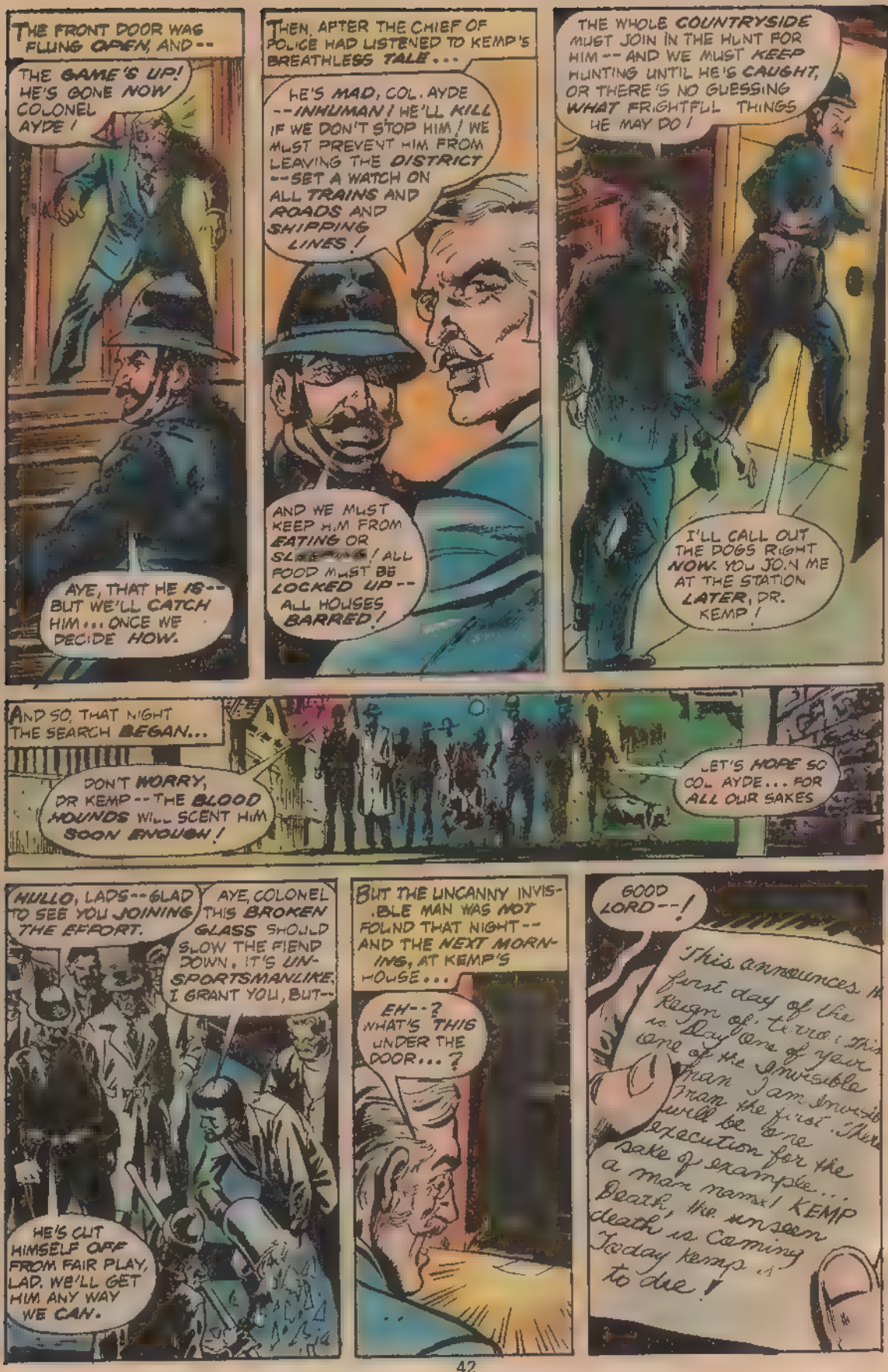

OH, I SUPPOSE HE UNTIED HIMSELF EVENTUALLY.
ALTHOUGH THE KNOTS WERE PRETTY TIGHT...HEH HEH HEH...


BY HEAVEN, KEMP, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT RAGE IS!! TO HAVE WORKED FOR YEARS, TO HAVE PLANNED AND PLOTTED, AND THEN HAVE SOME FUMBLING IDIOT MESSING YOU UP!
IF I HAVE MUCH MORE OF IT, I SHALL GO WILD! I SHALL START MOWING THEM DOWN!

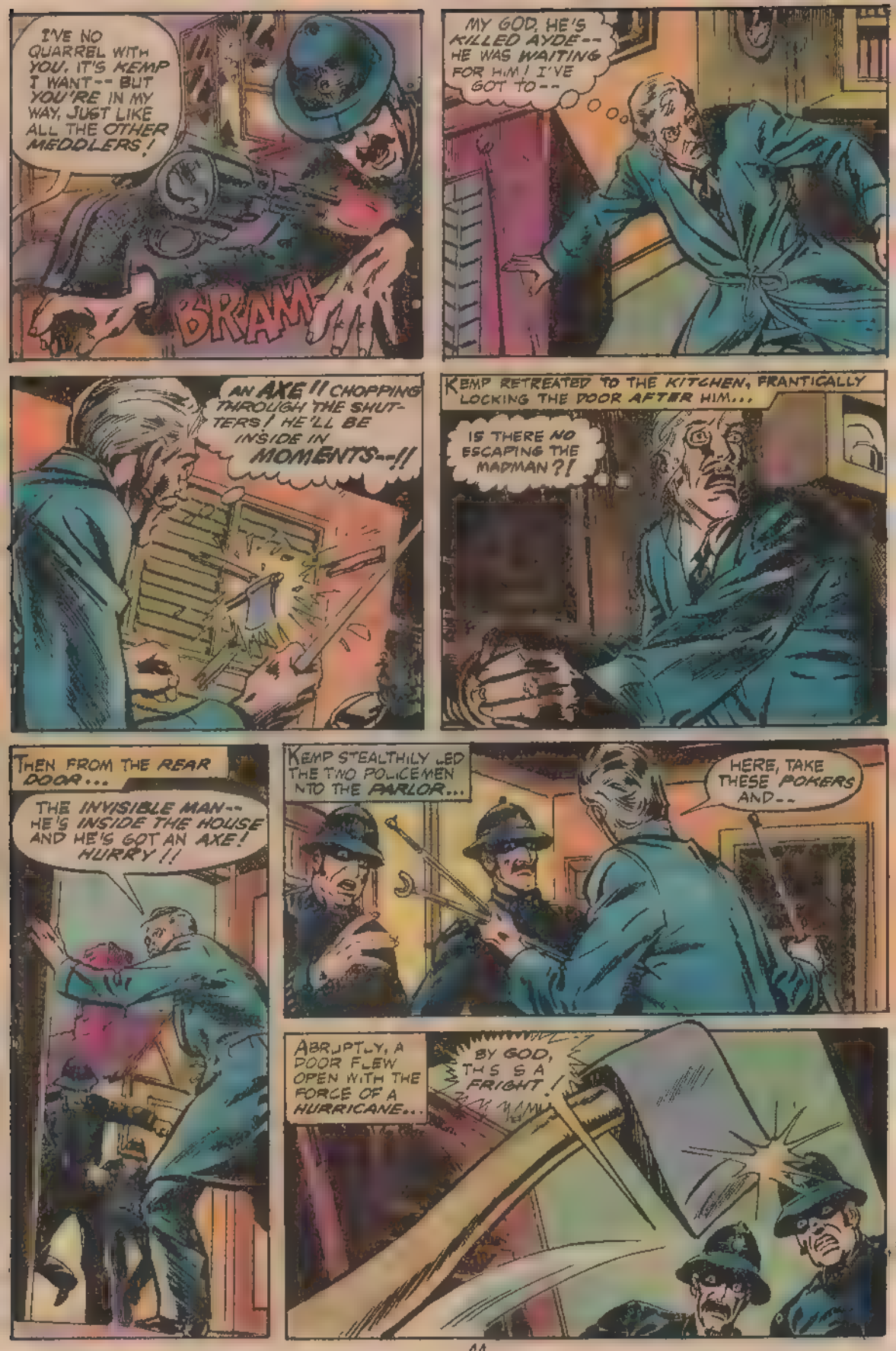

I HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT WITHOUT ALL THESE MEDDLERS! I MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER TO KEEP OUT OF SIGHT FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR AFTER MEALS!
I MUST ALWAYS KEEP RIGOROUSLY CLEAN TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF A WALKING FILM OF DIRT AND GRIME! I MUST NEVER--
WAIT, GRIFFIN!


YOU CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
NOW? I MUST HAVE A CONFEDERATE NOW, KEMP--A HELPER, AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY I CAN EAT AND SLEEP AND REST UNSUSPECTED! I MUST HAVE YOU, KEMP!


ALONE, I CAN ROB A LITTLE, HURT A LITTLE -- BUT THERE IT ENDS. BUT WITH A CONFEDERATE, I CAN ESTABLISH A REIGN OF TERROR -- I CAN ISSUE ORDERS AND KILL ALL WHO DISOBEY!
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO SIMPLY PUBLISH YOUR MIRACULOUS FINDINGS -- TO SHARE THEM FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF THE WORLD?
WHY MUST YOU KILL, GRIFFIN?
TO TERRIFY -- AND TO DOMINATE! WE'LL START WITH A FEW MURDERS, KEMP! BIG MEN, LITTLE MEN JUST TO SHOW WE BEAR NO PREJUDICE!
POWER, KEMP! TO MAKE THE WORLD GROVEL AT OUR FEET! TO WALK INTO THE GOLD VAULTS OF NATIONS -- THE PALACES OF KINGS!
GOOD LORD, HE'S A RAVING MEGALOMANIAC! HIS INVISIBILITY SERUM HAS ALSO DRIVEN HIM UTTERLY MAD!
TO SPY AND STEAL AND MURDER AT OUR LEISURE -- WITHOUT FEAR OF DETECTION OR PUNISHMENT! TO MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD FEAR OUR --
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT NOISE --? DOWNSTAIRS!
WHY, IT... IT'S NOTHING, GRIFFIN. GO ON WITH YOUR --
LIAR!! TRAITOR! SOMEONE'S COMING UP THE STAIRS -- YOU'VE BETRAYED ME!!
SWIFTLY, THE ROBE FELL TO THE FLOOR, AS THE INVISIBLE MAN DASHED FROM THE ROOM, RIPPING THE TELLTALE BANDAGE FROM HIS WRIST...
HELP! HE'S GETTING AWAY
WHERE IS HE, DOCTOR KE--
RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, FOOL!
OOOPH!


THE FRONT DOOR WAS FLUNG OPEN, AND --
THE GAME'S UP! HE'S GONE NOW COLONEL AYDE!
AYE, THAT HE IS -- BUT WE'LL CATCH HIM... ONCE WE DECIDE HOW.
THEN, AFTER THE CHIEF OF POLICE HAD LISTENED TO KEMP'S BREATHLESS TALE...
HE'S MAD, COL. AYDE -- INHUMAN! HE'LL KILL IF WE DON'T STOP HIM! WE MUST PREVENT HIM FROM LEAVING THE DISTRICT -- SET A WATCH ON ALL TRAINS AND ROADS AND SHIPPING LINES!
AND WE MUST KEEP HIM FROM EATING OR SL[illegible]! ALL FOOD MUST BE LOCKED UP -- ALL HOUSES BARRED!
THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE MUST JOIN IN THE HUNT FOR HIM -- AND WE MUST KEEP HUNTING UNTIL HE'S CAUGHT, OR THERE'S NO GUESSING WHAT FRIGHTFUL THINGS HE MAY DO!
I'LL CALL OUT THE DOGS RIGHT NOW. YOU JOIN ME AT THE STATION LATER, DR. KEMP!
AND SO, THAT NIGHT THE SEARCH BEGAN...
DON'T WORRY, DR KEMP -- THE BLOOD HOUNDS WILL SCENT HIM SOON ENOUGH!
LET'S HOPE SO COL AYDE... FOR ALL OUR SAKES
HULLO, LADS -- GLAD TO SEE YOU JOINING THE EFFORT.
AYE, COLONEL THIS BROKEN GLASS SHOULD SLOW THE FIEND DOWN. IT'S UNSPORTSMANLIKE, I GRANT YOU, BUT--
HE'S CUT HIMSELF OFF FROM FAIR PLAY, LAD. WE'LL GET HIM ANY WAY WE CAN.
BUT THE UNCANNY INVISIBLE MAN WAS NOT FOUND THAT NIGHT -- AND THE NEXT MORNING, AT KEMP'S HOUSE...
EH--? WHAT'S THIS UNDER THE DOOR...?
GOOD LORD--!
This announces the first day of the Reign of Terror. This is Day One of your new life. I am the Invisible Man. I am invisible. I am the first. There will be one execution for the sake of example... a man named KEMP Death, the unseen death is coming Today Kemp... to die!

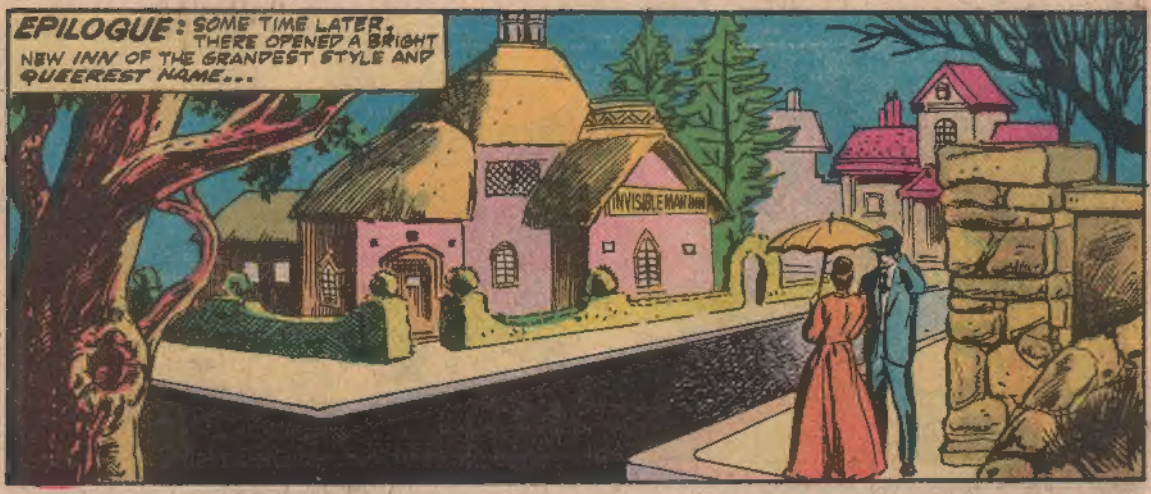
KEMP IMMEDIATELY RANG FOR HIS HOUSEKEEPER...
MARTHA, I WANT YOU TO GO AROUND THE HOUSE AND MAKE SURE ALL THE WINDOWS ARE LOCKED -- AND CLOSE THE SHUTTERS.
THEN I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS NOTE TO COLONEL AYDE.
YES, SIR.
KEMP THEN STOOD AT THE WINDOW FOR LONG MINUTES, STARING OUT AT THE DECEPTIVELY STILL COUNTRY-SIDE...
GRIFFIN'S OUT THERE -- I KNOW HE IS. HE MAY BE WATCHING ME EVEN NOW.
COLONEL AYDE ARRIVED NOT LONG AFTERWARD...
HE'S NEARBY, DR KEMP -- HE SNATCHED THAT NOTE OF YOURS RIGHT FROM YOUR SERVANT'S HAND. SHE'S AT THE STATION NOW, STILL SCREAMING HER HEAD OFF...
THEN, AT THE ABRUPT SOUND OF SMASHING GLASS...
QUICK -- IT CAME FROM UPSTAIRS!
IS THERE ANY WAY OF CLIMBING UP HERE FROM OUTSIDE?
NO, NOT EVEN FOR A CAT -- HE MUST HAVE PITCHED ROCKS THROUGH THE WINDOWS...
THEN THE SOUND OF MORE GLASS SHATTERING --
-- SENT THEM SCURRYING BACK DOWNSTAIRS...
HE MEANS TO BREAK EVERY WINDOW IN THE HOUSE, BUT HE'S A FOOL. THE WINDOWS DOWN HERE HAVE SHUTTERS ON THEM -- HE CAN'T POSSIBLY GET INSIDE, COLONEL.
JUST THE SAME, I'LL GO AND GET THE BLOOD HOUNDS -- THAT OUGHT TO SETTLE HIM.
KEMP BOLTED THE DOOR, AND THEN WATCHED AYDE'S DEPARTURE...
GOOD LORD -- HIS PISTOL!


I'VE NO QUARREL WITH YOU, IT'S KEMP I WANT -- BUT YOU'RE IN MY WAY, JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER MEDDLERS!
BRAM
MY GOD, HE'S KILLED AYDE -- HE WAS WAITING FOR HIM! I'VE GOT TO --
AN AXE!! CHOPPING THROUGH THE SHUTTERS! HE'LL BE INSIDE IN MOMENTS --!!
KEMP RETREATED TO THE KITCHEN, FRANTICALLY LOCKING THE DOOR AFTER HIM...
IS THERE NO ESCAPING THE MADMAN?!
THEN FROM THE REAR DOOR...
THE INVISIBLE MAN -- HE'S INSIDE THE HOUSE AND HE'S GOT AN AXE! HURRY!!
KEMP STEALTHILY LED THE TWO POLICEMEN INTO THE PARLOR...
HERE, TAKE THESE POKERS AND --
ABRUPTLY, A DOOR FLEW OPEN WITH THE FORCE OF A HURRICANE...
BY GOD, THIS IS A FRIGHT!

STAND AWAY, YOU TWO! I WANT THE TRAITOR KEMP!
AND WE WANT YOU, FRIEND!
WITH THAT ONE OF THE POLICEMEN LUNGED FORWARD, FLAILING HIS POKER AT THE DISEMBODIED VOICE --
--BUT A BLOW FROM THE AXE SENT HIM TO THE FLOOR.
SHUK!
THE OTHER POLICEMEN SWUNG AND WHEN HIS POKER HIT SOMETHING SOFT, THE AXE
KILL TWO MEN, WILL YOU?!
WHUP
KEMP COULD STAND IT NO LONGER...
HE RAN AS FAST AS HE COULD FOR TOWN... HEARING THE SOUND OF SWIFT FOOTSTEPS ON HIS HEELS...
NO! NOOOO!!
FINALLY, HE REACHED A GROUP OF PEOPLE...
THE INVISIBLE MAN! HE'S AFTER ME -- HELP!!

KEMP WAS SUDDENLY HIT HARD, WITHOUT WARNING...
OOOPH!!
AN UNSEEN KNEE PLUNGED INTO HIS STOMACH AND EAGER HANDS GRIPPED HIS THROAT
AGHH-K--! HELP... HELP ME!
BLAST YOU, KEMP! I TRUSTED YOU!!
A MAN LUNGED FORWARD AND SWUNG A SPADE THROUGH THE AIR OVER KEMP...
UNN!
THE GRIP ON KEMP'S THROAT RELAXED, AND THREE BURLY MEN DIVED TO GRAPPLE WITH THE UNSEEN ATTACKER...
WE'VE GOT HIM! HE'S DOWN-- HOLD HIM!
THERE WAS A SAVAGE STRUGGLE FOR SEVERAL MOMENTS...
...AND THEN, ALL WAS STILL.
STAND BACK-- HE'S HURT.
DON'T LET GO OF HIM-- HE MAY BE SHAMMING!
NO, HE'S NOT SHAMMING, HE'S NOT BREATHING... AND THERE'S NO HEARTBEAT...
HE'S... DEAD.

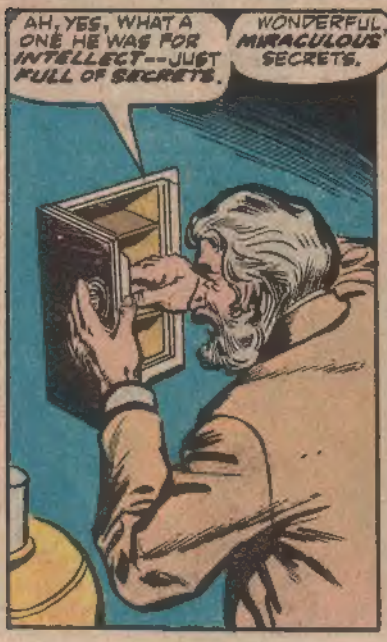
LOOK--! I CAN SEE HIS HAND!
HULLO! AND HERE'S HIS FEET STARTIN' TO SHOW!
SLOWLY, AS DEATH HALTED HIS HEART, AND SO THE FLOW OF THE DRUG THROUGH HIS SYSTEM, THE BRUISED AND BROKEN OUTLINE OF A BODY APPEARED... ASSUMING THE COLOR AND SHAPE GRIFFIN HAD SOUGHT TO REGAIN IN HIS MORE SANE MOMENTS... UNTIL, FINALLY, THE INVISIBLE MAN HAD BECOME ONCE AGAIN VISIBLE.
IT COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT DISCOVERY OF PROGRESS... I SUPPOSE...
SOMEONE GET A SHEET... TO COVER HIM.
THEN, BECAUSE THERE SEEMED TO BE NOTHING MORE TO SAY, THEY SIMPLY CARRIED HIM INTO A NEARBY HOUSE.


EPILOGUE: SOME TIME LATER, THERE OPENED A BRIGHT NEW INN OF THE GRANDEST STYLE AND QUEEREST NAME...
INVISIBLE MAN INN

...MANAGED BY ONE THOMAS MARVEL.
AYE, I MADE QUITE A THING OF MY FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM--ENOUGH TO BUILD THIS INN--SELLIN' MY STORY TO THE NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES...
AH, IT WAS SOMETHIN', IT WAS,

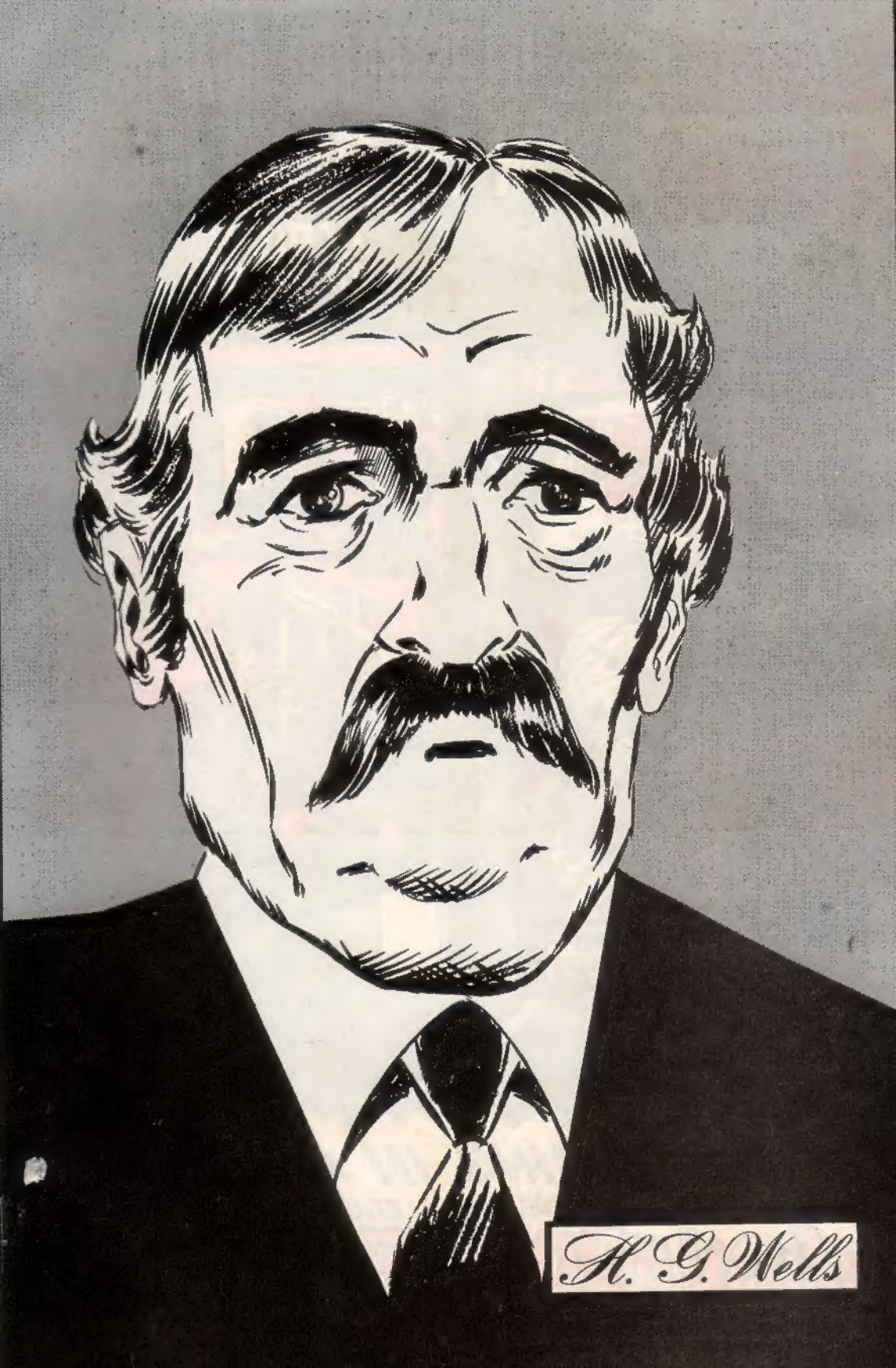
SO YOU'VE TOLD US--MANY TIMES. BUT DIDN'T HE HAVE SOME JOURNALS, MARVEL--SOME SECRET PAPERS REGARDING HIS WORK?
AYE... BUT THE INVISIBLE MAN HIMSELF HID 'EM--NO MATTER WHAT DR. KEMP CLAIMS.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, GENTS... I'VE SOME URGENT BUSINESS IN THE BACK.


AH, YES, WHAT A ONE HE WAS FOR INTELLECT--JUST FULL OF SECRETS.
WONDERFUL, MIRACULOUS SECRETS.

AND ONCE I UNDERSTAND THOSE SECRETS... WHY, THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT EVERYTHING HE DID.

AND ONCE I KNOW HOW HE DID IT, I'LL MAKE SURE I DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES HE DID. NO, I'LL MAKE A BETTER JOB OF IT...
I'LL BE A MUCH BETTER... INVISIBLE MAN.
the End


H. G. Wells

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